

Two-Year Extension To Meet Prison Cap

On Feb. 10, a federal court gave Gov. Jerry Brown a two-year extension to meet an inmate population cap on the state's prisons.

The order comes after the U.S. Supreme Court, in May 2011, ruled Brown must cap the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) inmate population at 137.5 percent of designed capacity, which would allow inmates to receive adequate medical care.

"A prison that deprives prisoners of basic sustenance, including adequate medical care, is incompatible with the concept of human dignity and has no place in civilized society," wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 5-4 decision.

Since 2011, CDCR made several failed attempts to meet the population cap, including the construction of the California Health Care Facility (CHCF).

CHCF added 1,818 beds to the



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Inside S.Q.'s West Block

state's prison system and raised the number of state prisons subject to federal scrutiny from 33 to 34.

Last year, California prisons housed 33,777 inmates with verifiable mental illnesses, roughly 30 percent of the entire prison population, with 6,051 of those suffering from acute disorders like schizophrenia, according to a report by the Sacramento Bee.

Attorneys for the inmates objected to the two-year extension, saying the extra time would subject inmates to "abysmal unconstitutional conditions," and pointed out the court's first duty is to "eliminate the constitutional violations...in the fastest way possible consistent with...public safety."

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Court Orders Adequate Facility for Death Row Mental Health Inmates



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

North Block Administrative Segregation Unit for Death Row inmates at San Quentin

A federal court has ordered California prison officials to create or find an adequate treatment facility for Death Row inmates with mental health problems.

The case stems from a 1995 lawsuit in which the court said the condition for inmates on California's Death Row with mental health violated the cruel and unusual clause of the 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The court had appointed a Special Master to work with prison officials to develop a plan

to bring the mental health care to constitutional levels. Of the more than 700 Death Row inmates, 31 have been identified as needing such help. Another 13 were being monitored for possible inclusion.

After the Special Master filed its 25th monitoring report in January 2013, the court concluded state officials "have not historically 'had a viable option'" for Death Row inmates with mental health issues in need of "inter-

See *Court Orders* on page 7

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi Visits S.Q.

'We need more room to educate a wanting jail population'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Classrooms and reentry programs are key to solving problems associated with jail and prison overcrowding, according to San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi during a San Quentin News forum with inmates.

On Dec. 20, Mirkarimi sat in a circle of 26 inmates—each with more than a decade behind bars, and most serving life sentences for crimes ranging from first-degree murder to forgery. The topic of discussion—rehabilitation, incarceration and reentry.

Alissa Riker, director of San Francisco jail programs, accompanied Mirkarimi.

"If our goal is to have a good reentry program, it won't happen unless the programs for reentry

See *Jailing* on page 4



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi addressing the S.Q. News Staff

Organizations Push State to Release 2,000 Prisoners Eligible for Prop. 36

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

The NAACP Legal Defense, Education Fund and the Three Strikes Project at Stanford School of Law want some 2,000 prisoners, who are eligible for shorter sentences under the state's three-strikes law released.

According to the NAACP,

"federal judges must order California to expedite Proposition 36 hearings for those 2,000 eligible inmates and at the same time make parole or probation services available to those felons when they are released."

Despite California voters' approval of Proposition 36, the reform has "no longer effectively reduced the prison population," according to Paige St. John of

the Los Angeles Times.

Lawyers for both organizations recognized California's prison population started climbing again. In the brief to the court, they argued vehemently that the state must take the leadership role in releasing inmates eligible under Proposition 36.

According to Paige St. John,

See *2,000 Prisoners* on page 4

Happy New Years & Happy Birthday

The staff of San Quentin News could not resist putting these two lovely babies in our newspaper. Both have bright futures, born in the same week, Seth Robinson born November 21st and William R. Spurlock on the 27th, 2013. Their fathers are a couple of

San Quentin News' utmost supporters, Lt. Sam Robinson and William Richard Spurlock of HASS Business School.

Their innocence forces us to put down our guard and recognize what is most important in this world.

The staff is blessed to have

the opportunity to wish baby Seth Robinson and William R. Spurlock all the best.

The joke around the office, Seth is San Quentin's future warden and William will become a media mogul, eclipsing the Rupert Murdoch Empire.



File photo

Lt. S. Robinson and William Richard Spurlock's sons
Seth Robinson and William R. Spurlock

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The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed. The following groups and individuals have already made contributions:

FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins, Lois Ahrens, Alliance for Change, Anonymous, Bill Anderson, Daniel Barton*Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Peter Bentley, Luci Berkowitz, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy D. Blank, Susan Breiding, Bruce and Maris Budner, Marcus Davies, Kasi Chakravartula*, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Ann Colburn, Lita Collins, Kevin Danaher, Christine Dell, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Braden Weeks Earp, Barry Eisenberg, Tamar Enoch, Jesykah Forkash, Amy Friedman, God B. God II, Geraldine Goldberg, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, William Hagler, Jordana Hall, Jun Hamamoto*, Danielle Harris, Suzanne Herel*, Mary Hiester, Douglas Horngard, Kathleen Jackson*, Jeremy Johnson, Monica Johnson, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Chad Kempel, Richard Keyes, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Linda Mafrice*, John Mallen*, Rosemary Malvey*, Edwin McCauley, June McKay*, Ray Menaster, Eugenia Milito, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Adriana Navas, Leslie Neale, Thomas Nolan*Attorney at Law, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, , Caitlin O'Neil, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Parish, J.S. Perrella*, Quilley Powers*, Martin Ratner*, James Robertson*, Lois and Steven Rockoff, Manuel Roman Jr., Diane Rosenberger, Jennifer Rudnall, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Ameeta Singh*, Nancy Street*, Josh Taylor, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Lori Vasick*, Jeanne Windsor, Forrest Woolman, Frank Zimring.

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Contributions by:

Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

In collaboration with students from the **Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**

BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

'Give Respect to Get Respect,' Says Retiring Officer Rita Jones

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Friday the 13th turned out to be correctional officer Rita Jones' lucky day.

On Dec. 13, Jones retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation after more than 30 years of service.

Jones, 61, began working in San Quentin on Aug. 2, 1982, and still remembers her first day. "My first day I remember walking on the yard and thinking I can't work here, but I stuck to it, and I did it," she said.

Jones may not be big in stature, but she is big on respect. Her advice to new officers, "You have to give respect to get respect." She also advised her colleagues to keep their word, be themselves, and don't treat every inmate the same, because they're not.

When Jones started working at San Quentin, "The convicts were different. They were very hard and mean," she said. She remembers a lot of name calling back then.

Today, she says, it is different. "The relationships between inmates and officers are a lot better now."

Jones attributes some of the change she has witnessed at San Quentin to the level of inmate security designation that the prison houses. When Jones came to work the prison was a Level IV, maximum-security prison, but now the prison is a Level II, medium security prison.

There were not very many female guards when Jones came to work at San Quentin, and African American female officers were even rarer. She remembers watching one of her contemporaries, Sgt. Addy Kitchen go through the ranks, which had a big influence on her.

At the end of the day, Jones decided not to pursue promotions. "I enjoy working the tiers in the buildings, and I couldn't do that if I promoted."

Over the years Jones acknowledges that San Quentin has changed her, but not for the worse. "San Quentin brought both the good and the bad out of me. Now I talk differently to my sons, because the prison rubbed off on me."

Jones says she will miss the officers, inmates, and just coming to work. She says she knows this is going to be a big change in her life and, "It feels like I'm discharging parole."

Jones has decided that she is through with working and has made extensive plans to travel. She says she plans on going to Paris and taking a cruise in the Caribbean. She says these are just a few of the things she never got to do while working at San Quentin.

Jones also says there are things she has to do around the house.

Jones is very proud of her association with San Quentin and says, "San Quentin is full of number ones." She is referring to officer seniority ranks in the state. At the time of her retirement Jones was ranked number one female officer in the state; officer Childress, number one male officer in the state; Sgt. Kenny Bell, number one sergeant in the state; and Lt. Graham, number one lieutenant in the state.

Jones says she is also proud of the fact that she is the only female officer to work 30 years.

Over her long career as an officer at San Quentin, Jones may be most proud of, as how she puts it, "I earned my respect!"



Officer R. Jones standing in front of Tower 1

Statistics Show U.S. Incarceration Rate Highest in History, Highest in World

Report: Alabama Has The Most Overcrowded Prisons In The U.S.

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

With more than 2.3 million men and women imprisoned in U.S. jails and prisons, two statistics stand out: today's U.S. incarceration rate is the highest it has ever been in history, and the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, reports the Americans Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU reported that Alabama has the most overcrowded prisons in the U.S. Its prisons accommodate nearly twice their designed capacity.

Several studies on overcrowded prisons show such conditions are hazardous for guards and inmates. More significantly, Alabama lawmakers say they want to avoid

what happened in California—court intervention and a population cap, according to the ACLU.

Alabama Republican State Senator Cam Ward introduced a bill last year to allow the state sentencing commission to set new sentencing standards and give judges more latitude in deciding what type of sentence to impose on defendants. That legislation went into effect last spring.

The bill has started to show results. The new sentencing guidelines have resulted in lower sentences for a variety of nonviolent offenses, reports the ACLU.

Judges are required to follow the new guidelines unless they can demonstrate a good reason for giving a defendant

a higher or lower sentence.

The new guidelines will have a significant impact on the state's severe habitual offender law, which impose longer sentences on offenders with prior convictions.

Under the habitual offender laws, if a defendant has two prior felony convictions and she/he gets convicted of a non-violent, non-serious felony, the defendant must be charged as though they committed a serious or violent felony, which means a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, even if the prior three felonies were for minor drug possession or forgery. Under the new sentencing guidelines, someone convicted of a third drug possession felony would now be eligible for a non-prison sentence.

The Significances of Black History Month

By Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor
Sports Writer

America is a great nation, it is hard to argue against that. This country, in its short history, has done much to make its mark on the world and within the annals of history. However, even as the framers wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, social inequities continued to exist. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice once stated that slavery was America’s “Birth Defect.”

It is hard for most Americans to realize that two distinct U. S. histories have developed simultaneously.

There is the history taught in most elementary schools.

A few lines in a book that state, in essence, that blacks were enslaved in America, then set free by the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. However, this account often lacks key contributions from America’s unheard historians.

This is a partial reason why Black History Month is so significant to the overall historical record of American history.

Most of America’s citizens have no idea that Washington D.C. was actually built by members of the then enslaved society. America’s greatness will only survive once all members of this nation are given full recognition for their contributions.

Inventions such as the wash-

ing machine and dryer, cotton gin, thumbtacks, traffic lights, and a host of other things were designed by the enslaved to make their heavy workload easier. Because slaves couldn’t own anything, the slave master possessed the rights and patents to many inventions. These facts have been corrected in most historical records but certainly not all.

Africans that arrived in this country in the holds of slave ships also brought with them their own religious beliefs. Most of those caught and sold into slavery came from the West Coast of Africa. Those from the Sokoto region that covers what is now Ghana and southern Nigeria, were Muslims. Among these Muslims were doctors as well as scholars of literature, mathematics,

and science. Some studied in the great University of Timbuktu. [This has been documented by several black historians, J. A. Rogers, Anthony Browder, Chancellor Williams, among them.]

There were also African Nestorian Christians caught and enslaved as well. With this in mind, it can inspire a new conversation within the religious community about people of all faiths and the history of slavery in America.

It’s important that we as Americans know and understand the full breadth of our history, not just segments of our history. While it’s fine for us as a nation to disagree about our interpretations of historical events, what we can’t have is separate sets of facts that we are interpreting.

In Texas, which incidentally

was the last state to tell its slave population about the Emancipation Proclamation, (They heard about it June 19, 1865, hence the Juneteenth holiday.) the state Education Board has actually changed accounts in history books. According to the television news program, “60 Minutes,” Texas has rewritten history to say that the members of the Confederate Army actually wanted to free the slaves in the south, and that the Klu Klux Klan is a Christian organization that fights for equality.

Such examples emphasize the importance of having Black History Month. We have to support what we do have or else the history will be lost.

We are Americans. We can overcome any obstacle as long as we work as one.

Homeboy Industries and Boeing Offer Opportunity for Ex-Cons

Boeing and Its Employees Contributed More Than \$147 Million

By Chris Schuhmacher
Journalism Guild Writer

Global Corporate Citizenship is a term that you would hardly equate with men getting out of prison. However, an unusual alliance between Boeing and Homeboy Industries is giving ex-convicts a viable opportunity for reentry back into society.

Located in downtown Los Angeles, Homeboy Industries has become the largest gang intervention, rehab, and reentry program in the United States. They have partnered with aerospace and engineering giant Boeing to offer a Solar Panel Installation Training Program to serve as a beacon of hope for those looking to redirect their lives.

“Homeboy Industries is sort of an exit off this crazy, violent freeway called gang violence,” says Father Gregory Boyle, the founder and director of the program. “It offers people a way out.”

Boeing chose to fund this program because it directly aligns with its goal of improving communities through effective job training. By assisting underserved individuals to become self-supportive, they become invested and are em-

powered to start giving back to the communities in which they live.

In addition to funding job training, Boeing has created an Employees Community Fund that has a strong history of providing donations to Homeboy through support of the Homegirl Café.

“Employees these days, they don’t want to just go to work and earn a paycheck and go home,” says Steve Goo, Boeing vice president of Aircraft Modernization Services and Homeboy board member. “They really want to do something that matters.”

Global Corporate Citizenship is the process of companies giving back to the communities where they live and work. Goo believes that Boeing’s support of this program is making a huge difference in people’s lives.

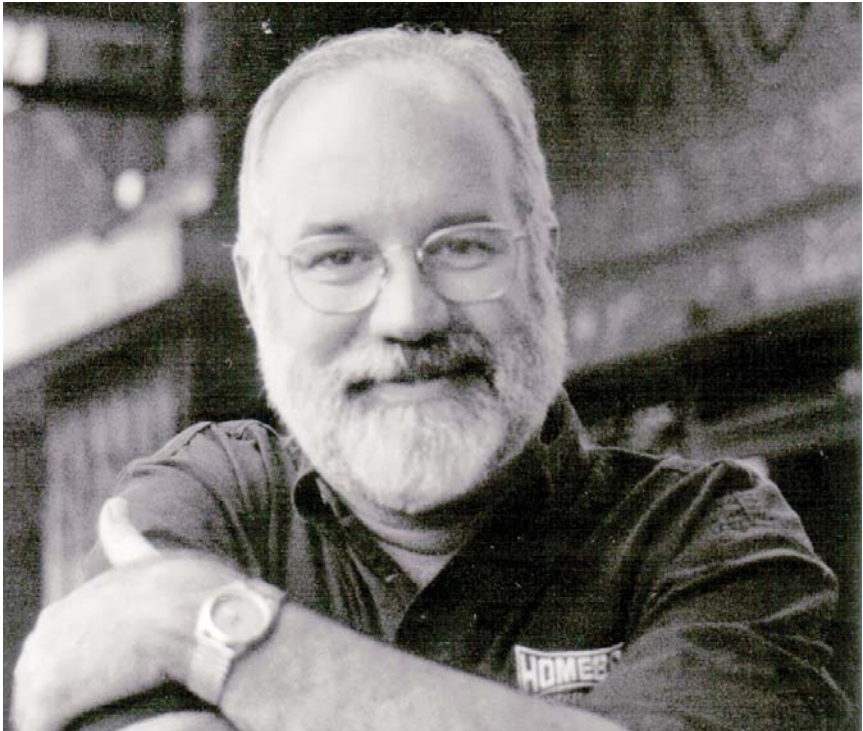
Homeboy Industries is just one of several non-profit organizations that Boeing partners with. Last year, Boeing and its employees contributed more than \$147 million in an effort to improve lives around the globe.

In addition to job training, Homeboy Industries continues to offer services such as free tattoo removal, skills training,

legal advice, and employment opportunities for those ready to put their gang and prison

life behind them. For more information, go to www.homeboy-industries.org or write to

Homeboy Industries – 130 W. Bruno St. – Los Angeles, CA – 90012.



File Photo

Father Gregory Boyle, the founder and director of Homeboy Industries

Men and Women of Purpose Provides Services for Newly Released Prisoners

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Ex-cons getting out of prison need a lot of help getting started again, according to a mentoring program in Richmond.

Men and Women of Purpose, referred to as MWP, is set up to provide the services to the newly released offenders. The program has the attention of officials throughout the state, including corrections officials and law enforcement agencies.

The program is funded through the state’s realignment

plan that shifts the responsibility for low-level offenders to county governments. Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia said the county is using \$5 million for community organizations such as MWP.

Sponsors of MWP recently applauded efforts of those who advocated for the program. Speaking at an open house for their new offices, the founder gave credit to local community leaders. Gioia, one of the honorees, said, “We are trying to show that investing in reentry is the best investment we can make to improve the suc-

cess of the population, reduce recidivism, and make the community safer.”

“We are trying to show that investing in reentry is the best investment we can make”

Former prisoner Ivory Mitchell represented San Quentin at the gathering.

Mitchell said he was “up on the fifth tier of West Block all alone” when he realized that he had to surrender his will to God. “God put me there to cry out,” he says.

Thirteen years later, Mitchell is reentry manager for the MWP program. When he cried out on the fifth tier, he was back for his tenth violation and emotionally broken down. Mitchell said he just decided that “change is possible,” and he decided to do it.

Gioia said one of the best things about the program is that it can now be consistent and be

able to follow up with men getting re-started. Speaking about the staff at MWP, “Now they are getting paid,” he added.

In addition to Gioia, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Chief of Police Chris Magnus, and Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay, were also honored for their contributions.

MWP founder Antoine Clorid has been persistent in advocating establishment of the mentor program. Noting his tenacity, City Councilman Nat Bates joked that Antoine is “number one beggar in the city.”

New Law Helps Former Prisoners Seeking Employment

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation aimed at helping former prisoners get jobs.

The new law means many people who seek jobs with state or local governments will no longer be asked on their initial application whether they have a criminal conviction.

Brown signed the measure, AB 218 by Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, D-Sacra-

mento, in October. It took effect in July of 2013.

It will not prohibit government employers from inquiring whether an applicant has a criminal record or conducting a background check once the employer determines the applicant has the basic qualifications for the job in question.

SUPPORTERS

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, supporters of the bill promote it as a channel for ex-offenders to com-

pete for jobs on an equal basis with others. Criminal checks for police, teachers, or government jobs working with children, the elderly or disabled are still permissible under the new law.

“A mistake from your past shouldn’t be a life sentence,” Michelle Rodriguez, attorney with the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, told the Chronicle. Some civil rights groups contend that questioning applicants about their prior criminal record

disproportionately affects minorities.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

In 2010, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger instructed most state agencies to cease the inquiries, but AB218 codifies that executive order into law and applies it to include local governmental agencies.

The Chronicle reported eight other states have a similar law on the books and in 2012, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recom-

mended that private companies also cease asking if a person has a criminal conviction.

Oakland and Richmond, have passed similar laws applying to private companies, according to news reports.

“We try to point out to the employers that there are many highly qualified people who have had some kind of interaction with the law who would be an asset to their employment pool,” said Linda Evans of Legal Services for Prisoners With Children.

‘Jailing the Mentally Ill Is Not Good’ – Sheriff Mirkarimi

Continued from Page 1

are set in place,” Mirkarimi said. “We need more room to educate a wanting jail population.”

Mirkarimi said San Francisco jail administrators are particularly interested in ideas that could benefit people serving shorter sentences.

Riker asked the men what made them want to participate in the programs.

Inmates began explaining that it wasn’t until they involved themselves in prosocial programs centered on helping participants understand the root cause of criminal thinking that they were willing to take advantage of substance abuse and education programs in prison.

“What I’m hearing from you only magnifies what our challenges are,” Mirkarimi said.

Inmate Dave Basile, 61, said after he went to The Hole in 2009, he realized that many of the things he believed in were wrong. “I noticed when

I started taking programs and college classes how limited I was,” Basile said. “There was a paradigm shift in my belief system and I realized that many of the things I had believed in were lies. Therefore, the veil of ignorance that had kept me limited soon began to lift from my eyes.”

Inmate Darnell Hill, 45, talked about how getting an education while incarcerated was the beginning of his transformation

grade education at the age of 22,” he said. “I came to a level of sincerity with myself and realized the only way I could better myself was through education.”

Hill earned an Associates Degree from the Prison University Project, a Biblical Studies degree from Patten College, and a degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. “I felt getting an education helped me overcome my criminal thinking and behavior,” he said.

Mirkarimi said the test for whether the in-jail programs are effective is what happens after the person is released. He asked the inmates: “How do you help people who serve short jail terms? Is it a government duty to take care of reentry?”

“The responsibility for taking care of reentry ought to be a responsibility of everyone -- government, offenders, victims, and the community,” said former inmate Richard Lindsey. “We have to develop a new way of looking at this problem. Restorative Justice is bringing a new way of looking at it. To inspire people to want to change, we need to integrate formerly incarcerated people into the system to give it credibility.”

Lindsey paroled from San Quentin in April 2013 after serving nearly 30 years for second-degree murder.

“As I see men released, I see a lot of frustration because there’s a gap in resources to needs,” said Richard Baez, director of the Addiction Recovery Program at San Quentin. “Just because a person has the resources doesn’t mean they’d take them. We need to find a way to turn the light bulb on to want to change.”

Mirkarimi said he was concerned with how to classify inmates once they are first booked into jail, particularly the mentally ill. “The criminalization



Sheriff R. Mirkarimi with Richard Lindsey talking while David Basile and Tommy Winfrey listens

of the mentally ill is not a solution,” he said. “Jailing the mentally ill is not good. The needs of custody and the needs of the offender must be reconciled for the best results.”

Making inroads in improving public safety is a top priority, Mirkarimi said. So finding the right programs is the biggest challenge.

In 2003, the San Francisco Sheriff’s Office opened Five Keys Charter School, the first public high school embedded in a jail system. Five Keys is founded on connecting the community with criminal justice policy, a focus on family, recovery from substance abuse, education and employment, as reported by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Since opening, “the school has awarded more than 600 high school diplomas, certificates of completion or equivalency diplomas,” reports the Chronicle. Graduates of Five

Keys (one year out of jail) do not return to jail 24 percentage points lower than the 68 percent of inmates who do not attend the school—saving San Francisco about \$1.5 million each year - after deducting operating costs of the school, the newspaper reported.

“We want to encourage a lot of volunteerism into the San Francisco County Jail,” Mirkarimi said. “We are always trying to harvest volunteers from the community. I believe this is important, not only for the offenders, but for public safety.”

Mirkarimi said he recognizes class problems in San Francisco. He said that when people are just getting out of jail they typically cannot afford to live in the city. “Those who are in the jail system are at the lowest rung of class. We need to change how people see those on the lowest rung.”

—B. Woodard and K. Sawyer contributed to this story.

2,000 Prisoners Await Review Under Prop. 36

Continued from Page 1

lawyers from both groups argued before federal judges “were [the state] invested in finding a durable solution to the prison crisis in California, one would expect to find some leadership on their part in this crucial area of reentry.”

St. John reports, “One thousand prisoners have already won release.” However, 2,000 eligible inmates are waiting review of their cases.

Los Angeles County has the poorest rates of hearing cases.

Only 17 percent of those inmates eligible for Proposition 36 have had their cases reviewed.

Jeffrey Callision, a representative for the corrections department contends, “The NAACP request goes beyond the state’s role.”

Callision believes, “It is the inmate’s responsibility to petition the courts, and it is for the judges to determine whether they should be re-sentenced.” According to the report, “CDCR does not advocate for or against any petition.”



Miguel Quezada, Sheriff R. Mirkarimi and Alissa (Ali) Riker signing her name in the S.Q. New's guest book



Sheriff R. Mirkarim, Adviser Joan Lisetor and Alissa (Ali) Riker inside the San Quentin News room

Increase in Federal Prison Population Forces Taxpayers to Spend Billions

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The federal prison population has steadily increased in the last three decades, forcing taxpayers to spend billions of dollars, shifting funds away from investigators and prosecutors, a new report says.

“Since Fiscal Year 2000, the rate of growth in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) budget is almost twice the rate of growth of the rest of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ),” said Nancy G. La Vigne, Ph.D., in a November 2013 report addressing the cost-effective strategies for reducing recidivism.

Since 1980, the population in federal prisons has increased nearly tenfold, according to La Vigne’s statement before the Committee on Judiciary United States Senate.

La Vigne is director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She represents more than 30 researchers who

study a variety of crime and justice issues. They have been managing the Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center for 20 years.

These researchers work on behalf of the federal government, La Vigne said. They clean, code, and “analyze data from a wide array of federal criminal justice agencies including the BOP, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the United States Sentencing Commission.”

“Our overarching conclusion is that it will require changes to both sentencing and release policies to reduce the federal prison population to levels that are within their rated design capacity,” said La Vigne.

According to La Vigne, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will experience “continued growth” in the future. Currently its inmate population is more than 219,000.

“With each passing year, the federal government has had to allocate more resources to the

federal prison system at the expense of other critical public safety priorities,” La Vigne said in November (2013).

A number of members of the Committee, Congress, the Attorney General’s office, researchers, administration officials, and bipartisan policy advocates concluded that federal prison “growth and its associated costs are unsustainable.”

The conclusion is based on “Fiscal impact, overcrowding risks, fairness and equity concerns, and inefficient resource allocation,” it was reported.

Indeed, “the federal prison population would need to decline by over 50,000 inmates to be operating prisons within their rated capacity,” La Vigne said.

Senate Bill 619, The Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013, is one legislative proposal to alleviate overcrowding, La Vigne reported.

The law would give judges more authority to “depart be-

low the statutory mandatory minimum penalty for offenders whose case-specific characteristics and criminal histories are inconsistent with a lengthy minimum sentence,” it was reported.

Another legislative alternative, according to La Vigne, is to transfer BOP inmates to community corrections or do early releases.

“Research indicates that in the states, the early release of inmates has no significant impact on recidivism rates,” La Vigne report said.

Other approaches to reduce this size of the BOP population include “instructing prosecutors to modify charging practices,” allow low risk inmates to earn more credit for extra time off, reduce drug sentences, release of elderly inmates, parole the terminally ill through compassionate releases and increase the transfer of foreign nationals.

According to the Office of the Inspector General, nearly one-

fourth of the BOP population are not U.S. citizens, but “less than 1 percent of foreign nationals are transferred through the International Prisoner Transfer Program.”

La Vigne reported that federal prisons are currently housing inmates by over one-third of design capacity. These figures are expected to grow in years to come, and this may make prisons more dangerous while also affecting reentry programs that typically reduce recidivism.

La Vigne said the changes to reduce the federal prison population require statutory changes, or policy changes, adding “lengthy drug sentences have been the biggest driver of growth in the federal prison population.”

La Vigne concluded by saying, “Aggressive action is needed to stem the tide of prison population growth,” and that “Many states have done so and are already reaping the benefits of cost savings at no risk to public safety.”

Prison Policy Initiative Report Highlights Four Core Improvements in Justice System

A prisoners’ rights research organization highlights in its annual report accomplishments and reforms made in the criminal justice system.

The Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) published its first annual report November 2013.

“The non-profit, non-partisan PPI produces cutting edge research to expose the broader harm of mass incarceration and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society,” according to the report.

The report analyzed these four core issues that have drawn national attention:

- Prison gerrymandering,
 - The high cost of phone calls made from prison,
 - Proposals to end letters to prisoners,
 - Geography-based punishments.
- When PPI learned that for years millions of prisoners throughout the U.S. were being counted in the wrong place by the Census Bureau, it exposed the gerrymandering practice. This raised awareness, later creating the impetus for legislation to change this policy at the local, state, and national levels.
- “For more than a decade,

we’ve been leading the movement to keep the prison system from exerting undue influence on the political process,” PPI reported.

The Census Bureau has now been urged to tabulate incarcerated individuals in the communities from which they come from by the 2020 census, instead of where these inmates are confined, PPI reported.

“The public was unaware that prison gerrymandering was distorting our democracy and impeding criminal justice reform,” PPI reported.

Two reports released by PPI exposed the inherent nature

of price gouging by prison telephone companies such as Global Tel Link that provides service to inmates.

The Price To Call Home, and Please Deposit All of Your Money revealed kickbacks to prisons, exorbitant rates, and hidden fees in the prison telephone industry.

The reports “explained how prison systems and private companies collude to charge unconscionable sums to poor families that simply want to stay in touch with an incarcerated loved one,” PPI reported.

“We wrote this report (Please Deposit...) to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prevent companies from creating arbitrary fees out of thin air to negate any caps that the FCC might impose on the cost of a call. It is clear from the FCC’s historic ruling in August that they heard our concerns and took action accordingly,” said Peter Wagner, Executive Director of PPI.

Recently PPI learned about a progression of sheriffs around the country attempting to ban letters written to inmates. The then impending jail mail policy was to allow postcard only mail communication from family members.

Later, PPI policy analyst, Leah Sakala, released her report Return to Sender. With the help of Sakala’s report, inmate advocates in California were able to halt the implementation of the mail policy in the Santa Clara County Jail, according to the report.

“A growing number of sheriffs are experimenting with a harmful idea: banning letters

from loved ones. We are pushing back,” PPI reported. “We wrote the first comprehensive report exposing the harm of letter bans in local jails.”

In its report titled, The Geography of Punishment, PPI details how sentencing enhancement zones do harm to communities while failing to protect children. The zones “miss the mark.”

“Increased penalties in school zone areas worsen racial disparities in the criminal justice system,” PPI reported. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick endorsed PPI’s proposal to reduce enhancement zones to 100 feet. This was done to reduce the state’s prison population, which in turn saved taxpayers money.

PPI’s Wagner testified as an expert witness in a Colorado case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union where the City of Englewood created an ordinance restricting where certain sex offenders and their families may live. The ordinance was subsequently overturned.

“When a legislature decides everywhere is special, nowhere is special. Aside from our main campaigns and ongoing projects, we’ve had several opportunities to support our colleagues’ campaigns in advancing larger discussions about mass incarceration,” PPI reported.

PPI formed in 2001 out of the idea three students had to make public and document how the affects of mass incarceration undermines the national welfare of the United States.

–Kevin D. Sawyer

Sexual Offenders Recidivism Rate Decreases, According to Report

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Sex offender recidivism is much lower than what people think, according to an article by USA Fair, Inc.

The organization reports that over the last decade recidivism studies of sexual offenders were conducted by various federal and state agencies, or by academic researchers from grants assistance from agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice.

Most recidivism rate reports look at a three-year period after release, because most reoffending behavior occurs within that time.

USA Fair describes itself as “Families Advocating an Intel-

ligent Registry.”

It notes that various agencies define recidivism by using a variety of indicators such as, re-arrest, re-convictions or return to incarceration. Some studies report more than one of these statistics.

The recidivism rates below are for “new sex crimes” recidivism, as opposed to technical violations of parole or probation or convictions for other crimes such as drug offenses, the article reports.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Study of 7,011 male sex offenders released from prison, re-convictions 5 percent after 3-year follow-up.

California Sex Offenders Management Board: A Study

of 3,577 sex offenders released from CDCR prisons in 1997 and followed through the end of 2007, returned to custody due to new sex offense 3.8 percent.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics: A study of 9,691 sex offenders released from prisons in 15 states in 1994 and followed for 3 years, sex crimes re-arrest Rate 5.3 percent, sex crime re-conviction rate 3.5 percent.

The other states showed in the report are Arizona, Minnesota, Alaska, Washington State, Ohio, South Carolina, Indiana, and New York. These had a re-arrest from 3.6 to 12 percent, and recidivism rate from 2.3 to 8 percent and re-conviction was from 2.7 to 10 percent.

Denial and the First Steps Towards Accepting Responsibility

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

There are many types of crimes, but in a civilized society, murder is considered one of the most heinous, perhaps because of its bleak finality. The person convicted of the violent act is called a “monster” and shunned by society.

Ar-Raheen Malik was 25, when he committed murder. Malik says it was initially hard for him to accept responsibility for his crime, yet by the time he got locked up in 1975, he began to recognize the horrific nature of his actions. Yet that was just the beginning of a long self-realization process.

For decades, Malik says he has labored to understand and reflect on how his wrongful acts have devastated the victim’s family, the community, his own family, as well as himself. He says each day is a struggle to tear down self-made barriers that have caused him to delude himself about his own actions. Instrumental to helping him, Malik says, are the prosocial programs provided to him by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation located at San Quentin.

His past delusions were cultivated in the environment in which he was raised.

“I really didn’t know my father,” Malik said. “My last memories of him were when I was nine. He picked me up to go shopping in San Francisco.”

That was in 1959.

Malik said his mother married twice, and he had good relationships with both stepfathers. However, since locked up,

they have passed away. “My last step-father, John, was really like a father,” he said. “We worked together when I was on the streets, and when I got locked up, he used to visit me. So, it really hurt when he passed away.”

Malik himself is a father to four children. His first was born when he was just 16, in 1966, the result of a one-night-stand.

Just a year later, he was smoking marijuana heavily, drinking alcohol, and dropping pills — his gateway to cocaine and heroin. Looking back, Malik said he did not know his enemy was a sickness he didn’t even recognize — drug addiction. It took its toll as he said he ended up being kicked out of every high school in Oakland. “By 17, I was doing what I wanted to do,” he said. “Even though the principal tried to talk to me, I wouldn’t listen. He told me that since I was a bad influence on all the other students, I shouldn’t be in public schools. My parents thought the same, so I got kicked out of the house, also.”

Yet he still had not learned his lesson.

In 1969, another relationship resulted in a second child. A third relationship, which lasted three years, resulted in still another child.

Malik says he always wanted a relationship and children, and for a while, he had both. However, as the years passed, so did the relationships.

Malik’s life in Oakland was not easy, especially because of the drugs, crime and fast lifestyle.

Malik says, while not an excuse, his addictive behaviors contributed to his committing a murder one fateful day in 1975.

As he recalls, the night before the murder he had taken LSD, and was up all night. Early the next morning, a friend came by his apartment and asked him to help collect some money.

Malik said he took a gun with him, “because it was standard operating procedure in the neighborhood,” which he said gave him a sense of security. “I was only going with a friend to pick up some money owed to him,” he said. “It never entered my mind that I’d be using the gun that morning.”

But, he did. Malik says he regrets using the gun. He says the lives of three people were changed that night, in which one person died.

For two years, he was on the run.

Malik said his murder trial lasted two weeks. “The public defender did the best he could,” he said. “After two weeks of deliberation, the jury found me guilty on all counts.”

When he was first locked up, he blamed his actions on alcohol, drugs, and a head injury he suffered in 1972 when he was hit by a police officer’s baton for resisting arrest.

In 1979, after he began participating in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous because he wanted to understand the events that led him to prison. He also began seeing the prison psychiatrist who helped him dispel a false belief system and realize how he was minimizing his past actions.

He credits the psychiatrist with helping him grow out of his delusions and to understand his criminal behavior. Malik said, “The programs through out my time in prison, and the psychiatrist helped me change my belief system and therefore, change how I view the world.”

Although he was securely locked away from the world, personal tragedy still crept inside the walls of his confinement.

In 1981, Malik’s youngest sister Debora, jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge while he was doing time at San Quentin. And, in 1991, his brother Luther, 40, hanged himself while he was doing time at California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo.

“It was devastating to me to lose my brother and sister that way,” he said. “They both needed the same help I needed at that time. Poverty is a cold monster,” adding, “A lot of time you’re cold and hungry.”

In 1988, Malik met and married Frances Tops, his first wife.

They were married 15 years but divorced in 2003. He says

even after the divorce, they regularly wrote each other. Then one day she stopped writing. A few weeks went by, and then he received a letter from the mailman informing that Frances passed away during a surgical procedure. “A person who’s locked up is blessed by having a precious soul to bring her softness inside a prison and help an inmate change his belief system,” adding, “I only regret I didn’t have the opportunity to spend time with her on the streets.”

Around the same time Frances died, Malik’s mother passed away.

Malik recalls family life with being very hard for his mother, as she had to raise five boys and four girls. “It was tough for her,” he said. “My mother was an uneducated woman from Arkansas and she was very superstitious. Raising so many children took away from her being able to take care of herself. I think this overwhelmed her and drove her to drinking.”

Malik, who has been imprisoned for 36 years, believes he has gained much wisdom from reflecting on his life and choices. The greatest advice he has for his younger friends is to listen to their teachers and to stay away from drugs and alcohol. “Don’t live the street life. Don’t even think there is power in carrying a gun; the only real power is in education,” he said.

Today, Malik is proud to say he is a devoted Christian. He says that if he gets an opportunity for parole, he wants to get into a program that allows him to work with at risk kids in the community.

EDITORIAL

Message From The Editor:

The entire inmate staff of San Quentin News apologizes for the 45-day shut down placed on its operations.

The inmate staff, Berkeley graduate student-volunteers, and professional advisers are happy to be back in business.

This issue, labeled “February-March” is playing catch-up. By April, we expect to be fully functioning on a tight schedule.

We will steadfastly guard against any future problems.

The sudden influx of letters by the hundreds has caused us to appoint someone to respond to them as best we can. The content of letters has heartened us, especially the ones coming from other states.

During the shut down, the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists has awarded San Quentin News the James Madison freedom of information award for “accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances” and lifting “the curtain of secrecy that shrouds those who live behind the walls.”

In an email, representative of SPJ called San Quentin News “a newspaper that provides an invaluable public service, not just a representative to fellow prisoners but to the general public at large.”

San Quentin Public Information Officer Sam Robinson said the award is well deserved.

Independent Researcher for San Quentin News Richard Lindsey is scheduled to receive the award on behalf of the inmate staff of San Quentin News at the 29th annual James Madison awards banquet that was held Thursday, March 20, at the San Francisco City Club.

San Quentin News is optimistically moving forward with its goal of providing a copy of the newspaper to every prisoner in the state of California.

We are also encouraged by numerous interview requests and support by readers following the Marin Independent Journal, Daily Californian, Los Angeles Times, and various other newspapers that picked up the story about San Quentin News.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is Cleanliness Next to Godliness?

Letter to the Editor:

In a state that has been plagued by droughts and water shortages, why are we showering the dirtiest people in the state? The criminals do not need showers; they need salvation!

They need their souls washed from the dirty deeds they have committed. No amount of water will cleanse them.

Since it is impractical to never bathe the wretched masses that have committed sin, because it is left to the pure of heart to watch these criminals and save them from their selves, we should not add to the captor’s misery by forcing them to smell the pungent refuse of society.

Since it would be offensive to the sensibilities of the righteous, we must come up with some compromise to ease their suffering.

After all, why should the good citizens whom have suffered the worse deprivations imaginable by being exposed to the filth be subjected to their offensive smells as

well.

This must be balanced with a modicum of compassion on the part of the state.

Water being the precious resource that it is, should never be wasted. A unique program at San Quentin has addressed this need.

The criminals at this infamous prison are subjected to a weather and temperature based regiment.

As soon as the temperature goes down in the winter months, the shower water temperature mimics the outside conditions and is lowered.

Vice versa in the warmer months of the year, water temperature is raised as the outside temperatures go up.

This has the affect of allowing the criminal to think they are making the choice to take shorter showers.

The criminal would never choose to conserve water for the sake of the state or the public. After all, the lowest people in society rarely think of anything or anyone outside of their selves.

The wretched criminal

takes shorter showers for his own sake. Otherwise, the criminal would choose to squander water.

San Quentin should be commended for the foresight of seeing that staff should be relieved of the putrid smells of the wretched, but water must be preserved.

As for those who may object to the poor treatment of offenders, I remind them that the criminal should be regarded as an animal of the basest nature.

The criminal shows no feelings for society when they pillage and rape communities, therefore they must be without them.

They should be treated as the animals they are. Would we worry about the temperature we bathe cattle in? I think not! Criminals do not deserve any special consideration. We can remove the filth from their skin, but not from their character. We would be wise to keep this thought in perspective, like the good people of San Quentin.

-Anonymous

Judge Hears Pepper Spray Challenge

Inmates Were Forced Out of Their Cells and Administered Court-Ordered Medication

San Quentin News Staff

A federal judge has heard testimony to determine whether California inmate’s civil rights were violated after pepper spray was used to force them out of their cells to administer court ordered medication, reports *The Associated Press*.

At an earlier trial, videos were made public showing “screaming inmates who refused to leave their cells” after being pepper sprayed, the *AP* reports. “What these videos have demonstrated is an institutionally sanctioned way of torturing mentally ill inmates,” said Jeffrey L. Bornstein, an attorney repre-

senting inmates, according to *AP*. “Use of force is always a last resort for our staff, and cell extractions are typically done to keep inmates from harming themselves or others and to ensure that they are placed in a more appropriate mental health setting,” department spokesperson Debo-

rah Hoffman said. “What you don’t see on these videos are the hours of discussions that take place between the inmate and clinical staff before a cell extraction is ordered and the video camera starts rolling.”

Since then, prison officials said that they would limit how much pepper spray could be used on inmates who do not comply with orders.

The 23-year-old court case has prompted comprehensive changes for the state’s prisons, including a cap on its inmate population by the federal court.

At the November trial, Dr. Edward Kaufman told the court little has changed in the 20 years since the federal court initially ruled guards used ex-

cessive force against mentally ill prisoners when they would not comply with their orders.

Separately, the judge also is considering whether mentally ill inmates on Death Row are given proper treatment, the *AP* reports.

The Death Row issues used an incident of a condemned inmate who punched out his own eyes with a pair of ballpoint pens, according to the *AP*.

“The psychotic inmate tried to kill himself three times at San Quentin State Prison but was never hospitalized. He finally hanged himself in April,” reports the *AP*.

The court’s written rulings on both cases are expected in the near future, the *AP* reports.

Federal Court Grants Two-Year Extension to Meet Prison Cap

Continued from Page 1

As examples of abysmal conditions, court experts found that one women’s prison was operating 178.5 percent over capacity, and not providing adequate medical care. The result created preventable morbidity and mortality with on-going serious risk of harm to inmate patients. The majority of the problems were attributable to overcrowding, insufficient health care staffing and inadequate medical bed space, the experts concluded.

The experts examined nine other prisons, and they said none provided adequate health care.

Inmates’ attorneys say that inmates with mental illness “continue to suffer the devastating effects of ongoing overcrowding... [and] die at staggering rates as a consequence of [the state’s] failure to provide minimally adequate mental health treatment and conditions of confinement.”

The Feb. 10 order created a timeline that Brown must keep in meeting the inmate population cap of 137.5 percent of designed capacity. In addition, the court ordered the appointment of a Compliance Officer with authorization to select qualifying inmates for release if the state’s 34 prisons exceed preset population caps.

The first population cap of 116,651 inmates or 143 percent of designed capacity must be met by June 30.

Numbers from CDCR shows that on Feb. 12, the inmate population stood at 117,682, or 144.3 percent of designed capacity—1,031 inmates higher than the cap.

By Feb. 28 of next year, the CDCR inmate population cannot exceed 141.5 percent of designed capacity or 115,427 inmates.

By Feb. 28, 2016, the CDCR inmate population cannot exceed 137.5 percent of designed capacity or 112,164 inmates.

The court order notifies CDCR that if the inmate population exceeds any of the above preset levels, 30 days thereafter, the Compliance Officer will select qualifying inmates for release.

The Compliance Officer is to “have access to all necessary CDCR data and personnel regarding the California prison population, including population projections.” The inmate’s Central file, risk assessment,

recidivism data, statistical data would be used to find qualifying inmates.

By April 11, CDCR is to give the Compliance Officer under seal, the categories of prisoners who are least likely to reoffend or who might otherwise be candidates for early release through a Low Risk List. An amended list is to be updated every 60 days.

In addition, the court orders Brown to “develop comprehensive and sustainable prison population-reduction reforms and [to] consider the establishment of a commission to recommend reforms of state penal and sentencing laws.”

“California prison would remain 3,000 inmates over what federal judges say they can safely hold and still provide adequate healthcare and psychiatric services”

The order excludes the release of condemned inmates or inmates serving a term of life without the possibility of parole.

The Brown administration says the state is revamping the prisons with “new reform measures to responsibly draw down the prison population while avoiding the release of inmates.”

The sentences of non-violent second strikers and minimum custody inmates with a record of good behavior are to be reduced by one-third.

Non-violent second strikers and minimum custody inmates qualify to earn an additional eight weeks a year off their sentence for completing certain rehabilitative programs. In addition, under certain circumstances, minimum custody inmates are eligible to earn 2-for-1 good-behavior credits, while non-violent second strikers are eligible for board consideration after serving half of their sentence.

Inmates who have appeared before the Board of Prison

Hearings and granted future release dates are to be released immediately.

Medically incapacitated inmates are scheduled to receive greater consideration for release.

A new parole process is to be implemented for inmates who are over 60 years of age and have served a minimum of 25 years.

Thirteen prisons designated as reentry hubs are to be activated within one year, while pilot reentry programs are expanded to more counties and local communities.

Alternative custody programs are to be implemented for female inmates.

The Los Angeles Times reported that even after the reforms take place, “California prison would remain 3,000 inmates over what federal judges say they can safely hold and still provide adequate healthcare and psychiatric services.”

Court papers show that the crowding problem “is getting worse not better,” and warn, “The prison population is projected to grow another 10,000 in the next five years.”

The L.A. Times reported, “Projections released by the corrections department show that by 2019 the state will have 26,000 more inmates than its prisons would be able to hold under the federal crowding caps.”

The Brown 2014-15 budget calls for \$9.8 billion to be spent on corrections with nearly \$500 million to pay for and administer prison contracts to house nearly 17,700 inmates, which is \$100 million more than this year to house 4,700 more inmates, according to the L.A. Times.

Brown cannot “increase the current population level of approximately 8,900 inmates housed in out-of-state facilities,” according to the court order.

Brown said he intends to comply with the court order by “contracting for additional in-state capacity in county jails, community correctional facilities, and a private prison.”

To get the two-year extension, Brown agreed to “not appeal or support an appeal of this order, any subsequent order necessary to implement this order, or any order issued by the Compliance Officer.”

—This article will be reprinted in Spanish in our next edition.

Access to Healthcare Reduces Recidivism

By Seth Rountree
Journalism Guild Writer

While incarcerated, inmates have a constitutional right to adequate healthcare. Keeping it up once they are released, helps them stay out of jail, reports the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Continuity of care is essential if we want to see health and safety benefits,” said Amy Solomon, an advisor to the DOJ.

In the U.S., more than 2.5 million people spend time in local jails, state and federal prisons—costing the 50 states about \$80 billion a year. About 670,000 of these offenders are released to the streets each year.

However, many of these offenders, fraught with addictions and mental illnesses, go back to impoverished neighborhoods. Instead of treatment, they are sent back to prison, according to Solomon.

The potential to minimize recidivism and cut the cost of providing medical care to those

exiting prison is a value beyond the technological problems encountered during the online sign up process for the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA), Solomon reports.

In 2014, people earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line and live in one of the 25 states that have established a Medicaid expansion plan will qualify for access to the government insurance program. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/13poverty.cfm>)

For some of the newly released offenders, this would mean their first chance to receive healthcare outside of prison, Solomon reported.

“I hope that judges will have viable community-based treatment options, so they won’t feel compelled to lock up someone with mental health issues,” Solomon said.

The Affordable Care Act has the ability to dramatically reduce cost linked to corrections, Solomon said.

Court Orders Changes For Mental Health Patients On Death Row

Continued from Page 1

mediate level of hospital care.” The Special Master noted six suicides on Death Row in six years—five in the last two years.

According to court papers, intermediate care refers inmates requiring “highly structured inpatient psychiatric care with 24-hour nursing supervision due to a major mental disorder, serious to major impairment of functioning in most life areas, stabilization or elimination of ritualistic or repetitive self-injurious/suicidal behavior, or stabilization of refractory psychiatric symptoms.” Treatment helps patients cope with daily

living and medication compliance, experts say.

The Dec. 10, 2013 order requires state officials to continue working under the guidance of the Special Master to establish long-lasting remedies “that provides adequate access to necessary in-patient mental health care or its equivalent for seriously mentally ill inmates on California’s Death Row.”

The court further told state officials to consider “all possible remedies, including, but not limited to, creation of a hospital unit for condemned inmates only at California Medical Facility, San Quentin, Stockton or other appropriate facility.”

—By Juan Haines

Corrections Corporation of America Profits From Mass Incarceration

**By Ted Swain
Staff Writer**

Private prisons profit from mass incarceration. One of the largest private prison operators is Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). The company is a publicly traded real estate investment company specializing in owning and operating prisons.

The format of the company is similar to a partnership or trust, whereby shareholder equity interests participate in the profits and losses of the company. Known as a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), the format allows investors to participate directly in the mass incarceration boom.

With some prisons closing and prison populations headed down, one may wonder about the merit of such an investment. According to CCA, it is the country's largest owner of partnership correction and detention facilities. It is also one of the largest

prison operators in the United States. The company owns 53 correctional and detention facilities and manages 16 other facilities, which are owned by governments.

CAPACITY

CCA operates institutions with a total design capacity of about 90,000 beds in 20 states. As the fifth largest provider of prison bed space, the company stands behind only the federal government and three states in terms of the numbers of inmates housed in its facilities.

As an investment, perhaps the company stands as a great real estate investment program. However, as Kanye West cited in his rap music, *"America's New Slaves"* do not fare very well at the hands of a private prison operator. According to the political publication, The Nation, that negative view is justified because private prisons are a bad investment.

"Profiting off mass incarceration is a dirty business," said Jesse Lava and Sarah Solon, authors of *"Why This Company Wants You in Prison"* (The Nation, Nov. 5, 2013). In state after state, the private prison concept represents a failed approach to public safety. Private prison companies have a corrupting incentive, they said. It is clear that many people have a perverse incentive to "see you in prison."

According to The Nation's research, CCA squanders taxpayer money and runs facilities rife with human rights abuses. Not unlike prison guard unions who have paid millions to sponsor "lock – em – up – forever" initiatives, there are many corrupting incentives in the private prison concept according to the magazine.

One of the most perverse incentives is the drive to cut costs at the expense of health and safety of the inmates. Increasing profits and pay by

cutting corners on basic services to the inmates, is exceedingly perverse, according to the American Civil Liberties Union in its *"Prison Profiteers"* video.

"When people seek to profit from prisons, it creates a powerful incentive to cut corners in the services they've been hired to provide," said The Nation. Another incentive is to promote the bottom line, whether or not it secures public safety or promotes any taxpayer value.

PROFITS

Last year CCA made \$1.7 billion, and their profits are often at the expense of their wards. Recently, U.S. District Judge David Carter held the company in contempt of court for persistently failing to adequately staff its facilities at the Idaho Correctional Center. Carter indicated the company had the ability to properly staff the facility, but he found the company had consistently

failed to do so. He also said the company continuously under-reported the degree of staff shortages.

Rejecting company contentions that the warden and company officials did not know about the understaffing, the judge indicated the company had been warned about its staffing problems multiple times. Understaffing may have contributed to the bottom line profits. Although CCA failed or refused to correct the problems, it is clear that at a minimum, 4,800 hours of vacant security post time was unfulfilled during 2012. The judge also said that there is no reason to believe that the problem began in 2012.

Judge Carter said that the company had lied to the court about whether or not officers were at their posts. Today, the Idaho State Police is investigating whether CCA committed any crimes, and the judge has appointed an independent monitor to oversee staffing at the prison.

'California Lockdown Practice Violates Constitution'

U.S. Justice Department Challenges Decisions Based on Race

**By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer**

The California prison system violates the U.S. Constitution when it places inmates on lockdown based on their race after a riot, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The practice violates the 14th Amendment according to court papers filed in October.

Gangs inside California prisons are generally structured along racial lines, with riots often occurring between gangs of different races or within that one race, reports The Associated Press.

As a way to curtail any fur-

ther violence, and as a form of punishment, prison officials usually lock down all inmates of the same ethnicity as those involved in the melee, regardless of whether they were involved in the disturbance, The AP report states.

The policy is "not based on any individual analysis of prisoner behavior, but rather on generalized fears of racial violence," according to the court documents signed by the chiefs of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Court papers point out that California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation officials are aware that most inmates in the prison system

have no gang affiliations.

The Justice Department contends that current policy is too vaguely worded to be constitutional.

The court determined that corrections officials could adopt race-neutral policies, such as only locking up those inmates that are suspected of being directly involved in the incident, or placing the entire unit where the riot occurred on lockdown. In addition, the court found that the state could make a better effort at identifying those inmates in advance who are involved with gangs and more likely to participate in race-based violence, and then separate them from the general population.

Terry Thornton, spokesman for the corrections department, pointed out that the state's policy is not to make a determination for a lockdown based "solely on the inmate's race or ethnicity." According to state law, corrections officials "shall not target a specific racial or ethnic group unless it is necessary and narrowly tailored to further a compelling government interest."

The lawsuit was originally filed in 2008 by Robert Mitchell, an inmate at High Desert State Prison in Susanville. Mitchell was placed on lockdown following a disturbance at the prison.

"They lock down people

who were not involved in the incident, not involved in the gang and just happened to have the same skin color," Rebekah Evenson told The Associated Press. Evenson is an attorney with the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit civil rights group which is representing the inmates in this suit.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, on average, has more than 600 lockdowns a year throughout the prison system, Evenson said, adding approximately 200 of those are based on the race of the involved inmates. There are no other states where there is a similar policy, Evenson added.

\$30.7 Million Contract Signed to House Low-Level Inmates in Private Prisons

**By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer**

California signed a \$30.7 million a year contract for five years with an international prison company to house prisoners at two low-level security prisons in the communities of Adelanto and McFarland.

"This is the second in-state contract with a private prison. Separately, the state has contracts for 8,500 prisoners kept in privately owned prisons in other states," said department spokesperson Jeffrey Callison.

The Geo Group, a Florida-based company, "signed deals with the state to house 1,400 inmates – 700 of whom will be housed at the Adelanto facility," according to the Daily

News.

"The Adelanto facility will begin to accept inmates by the end of the year," it was reported.

"For every 100 prisoner we release, 60 to 70 commit more crimes and end up back in prison"

George C. Zoley, chairperson and CEO of the Geo Group said, "We are thankful for the confidence placed in

our company by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The reactivation of our Central Valley and Desert View Modified Community Correctional facilities will play an important role in helping meet the need for correctional bed space in the State of California."

Last year, the state reportedly said, "it would end a contract with the Geo Group to house parole violators in McFarland, but Brown later extended the contract through fiscal 2016. The state terminated a contract for the Adelanto facility in 2011; only later renewing its agreement with Geo."

Expanding a lease is one of the advantages of leased facilities. The state can enter into a new contract according

to the need.

In spite of the state's new contract with the Geo Group, State Senator Ted Lieu said, "I don't believe simply expanding capacity will provide a durable solution to our prison overcrowding crisis. I hope the federal court will extend the prison reduction cap by two or three years. If they do that, then I hope we don't need to complete the private prison contract."

"For every 100 prisoners we release, 60 to 70 commit more crimes and end up back in prison. Simply expanding capacity doesn't address that problem," Lieu said.

Three of the largest detention centers in the country – a federal prison, the county jail and an immigration center are in Adelanto. "Any time we

can put more people back to work, that's a move forward," the Mayor said.

The Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility will hire 140 correctional officers to fill those positions. However, Victoria Mena, coordinator of an immigration program does not like the idea of having all these facilities in the community.

"There are no high schools, and the elementary schools are failing," Mena complains. "It says a lot about the community and says a lot about where their priorities are. There are no after school clubs and no community centers. Instead it's the hub of mass incarceration." She wants to know, "what happens when people are released?"

KQED Report Says CDCR Chief Beard Has the Toughest Job in California

In 2008, Beard Played a Major Role in Sentencing Reform in Pennsylvania

**By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer**

Correctional Secretary Jeffrey Beard has the toughest job in California, according to a KQED report. Beard has faced crisis after crisis since joining the Brown Administration last year.

“At the time, a \$60 million rebuilding effort wouldn’t work unless the state scaled back mandatory prison sentences”

From a widespread hunger strike to a never ending battle with federal judges over control of health care in California’s prison, there is no question that these are steep challenges, the report cites.

“The past year he and Governor Brown spent most of the time losing a series of legal challenges over federal control of the California prison’s health care. The two of them share the same goal, ending federal control of California’s prison as soon as possible, KQED reports.”

When asked whether he had second thoughts about his new job, Beard told KQED viewers, “You know, I think they make this job just very interesting. Working with Governor Brown has been a unique experience. He is different much more hands on. He is interested in what I do.”

Beard is no stranger to the California prison system. In 2010, he worked as a consultant for the department after several years working in the Pennsylvania prison system. “It’s hard to figure out a new state after 38 years somewhere else. A lot of times when something comes up about a policy or something, I have to ask somebody or I have to go and look it up,” he said in the KQED report.

In 2008, Beard played a major role in sentencing reform in Pennsylvania. The state’s

prison population jumped from 8,000 to 50,000 caused by tough on crime legislation, retary lobbying lawmakers to undue them.” Pennsylvania shares many the governor and legislature. He has fallen into the same mold as every past secretary



Correctional Secretary Jeffrey Beard being interviewed

Federal Cutbacks Shift Firefight Cost to State and Localities

San Quentin News Staff

Since 1980, federal firefighting crews have been cut-back by 40 percent, the *New York Times* reports. The cut-backs shift the responsibility for fighting wildfires to state and local governments.

oldest and largest inmate firefighting program with roughly 4,000 prisoners and 200 crews, the *Times* reports. “And they’re out in the community, paying back for their mistakes,” Hutchinson said in the report.

COST

California saves an estimated \$80 million a year by paying inmate firefighters \$1 per hour for work in emergencies like fires and floods, according to forestry and fire protection statistics.

Arizona inmate firefighters earn 50 cents an hour, among the lowest in the country, according to the *Times*.

In 2010, Colorado’s recidivism rate was the third highest in the nation at 52.5 percent. However, prison officials reported that inmate firefighters had a recidivism rate of less

than 25 percent.

The inmate firefighters have the same training as other wilderness firefighters and must pass a physical test consisting of “traveling three miles on foot in 45 minutes, carrying 45 pounds on their backs,” the *Times* report.

QUALIFICATIONS

“They’ve got to have the heart, the strength and the willingness to do the job,” said Jake Guadiana, an Arizona State Forestry coordinator. “This is not the place for you if you’re looking for a free meal and some time out of prison,” Guadiana said in the report.

To qualify for the firefighting program inmates must be free of rules violations and be in prison for a nonviolent offense.

of the same problems as California, the report cites. Both prison systems are overcrowded. However, three years after rebuilding prison facilities in Pennsylvania, its prisons were still above designed capacity.

In the KQED report, Beard was quoted saying, “at the time, a \$60 million rebuilding effort wouldn’t work unless the state scaled back mandatory prison sentences. We can’t afford to keep locking everybody up.”

In the KQED interview, reporter David Gilliland said, “Prisons are like a bucket of water, where you have a couple of hoses feeding water into the top; you have a variety of spigots letting water out.”

“The problem is the people who control the water coming in are a completely different bureaucracy than those who control the spigot coming out. And the secretary of corrections has no control over either bureaucracy,” said Gilliland.

Critics of the prison system attacked Beard’s “approach to corrections as schizophrenic at best. His reforms went nowhere, so he has taken a hard line approach to please politicians, unable to stick with what he knows works, versus what will win the approval of

of corrections, a yes man to the governor,” it was reported.

“Beard left a horror trail in Pennsylvania and expanded their prison system to the moon. They went so far as to call him the godfather of prison expansion,” his critics say.

Beard defends his experience in handling mentally ill inmates. However, Bob Meek, an attorney with Disability Network, “alleged the state (Pennsylvania) simply locked many of them up in segregated housing, rather than treat them.”

In spite of his critics, Beard pointed in the interview to programs he launched aimed at treating mentally ill inmates.

When ask about the similarities of the two states in the KQED interview, he said he understands why segregated confinement stirs up so much anger. He defended the practice as necessary, to protect other inmates and to control gangs.

In spite of his critics, “While running Pennsylvania’s prisons, he was the first correctional secretary to say the state needed less mandatory sentencing and more treatment options,” KQED reported.

Unlikely Compromise to End Federal Mandatory Minimums

**By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer**

Two unlikely legislators joined forces to end federal mandatory minimum sentences. Conservative Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and his Democratic counterpart Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) last year introduced the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013.

The legislation “allows judges

to impose sentences below the statutory minimums in the interest of justice, which makes those minimums no longer mandatory.”

According to FAMM, this legislation is needed because the “extraordinary” cost to taxpayers for mandatory minimum sentences is crippling the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The DOJ reports that 25 per-

cent of its budget goes to housing, feeding, and providing health care to prisoners. Nearly half of these inmates are in for drug offenses and are doing decades in an increasingly overcrowded system.

“We are going to catch fewer violent criminals and terrorists,” said a spokesman, “because our budget is being spent on keeping nonviolent drug users

behind bars.”

Existing legislation permits judges to impose sentences below a statutory minimum, but current statutes limit judges’ discretion to drug offenses with strict criteria.

For example, Weldon Angelos was ineligible because the informant he sold marijuana to saw a gun in Angelos’ car. In addition, arresting offi-

cers found guns in his home. Though Angelo never used or brandished a gun during his drug sales, he received a mandatory minimum sentence for multiple counts of gun possession totaling 55 years with no parole. Judge Paul Cassell, a George W. Bush appointee, called the sentence, “demeaning to victims of actual criminal violence.”

EDUCATION CORNER

S.Q. Education Department Gets New Electronic SMART Boards

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

The Robert E. Burton Adult Education Center at San Quentin has installed a new interactive state-of-the-art electronic learning devices in six classrooms.

SMART Technologies' SMART Board, a multi-facet communication device, operates with a desktop/laptop computer, an overhead projector and a white board.

The system will profile images from the computer to an overhead projector displaying objects on the white board. These devices will give teachers and students hands-on access to a variety of training materials.

"With these capabilities and features, teachers and students can interact with images and objects on the board. They can add, change, modify, and delete



Photo by Steve Emrick

GED teacher Gary Shimel standing in front of a SMART Board

"teachers and students interaction with the current system will provide access to multimedia Microsoft office related software, hard copy textbooks, paper, CD's and DVDs." There are additional sources of materi-

sist with non-English-speaking students.

All related English lesson plans identify syntax, word identification, noun, verbs and other relative sentencing structures. The student can add, change, delete or move objects/images or letters within the text. All modifications made on the board will be saved in memory.

"There is so much research material available that can be used to develop lesson plans." However, "the internet would allow teachers to post, exchange and share lesson plans with other teacher simultaneously," Kaufman said.

Kaufman is impressed with the idea students can learn from the various subject materials using "Kinesthetic". This system feature will give teachers and or students access to "Stylus" - a device used to write and erase digital ink. They can also use their hands to write and erase the material on the board.

"The system is a great learning tool for classroom teaching. But there are so many other features and functions we could use if we only had access to the internet," Kaufman said.

SMART Technologies representatives are expected to train in the coming months. Kaufman says he is eager to use the SMART Board in his classroom. "I'll be available to train the other teachers if needed," he said.

Data Shows Educated Prisoners Don't Return

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

After being released from prison, educated inmates do not come back, according to the *Rand Corporation*.

"We no longer need to debate whether correctional education works," said Lois Davis, a *Rand* researcher. However, "we do need more research to tease out which parts of these programs work best."

The report gives data to correction officials, lawmakers, and others participating in the criminal justice system to show that educating inmates while in prison is good policy.

"There is strong evidence that correctional education plays a role in reducing recidivism," according to the report. Inmates who participate in education programs and vocational training have a 43 percent lower chance of returning to prison than those that do not.

The report focused on the "direct costs" of education programs in prison and incarceration. The report then examined a hypothetical pool of 100 inmates who returned to prison within a three-year period.

The report found that inmates who returned to prison, within the three-year period, who did not receive a correctional education cost between \$2.94 and \$3.25 million. However, inmates who received an education while incarcerated cost between \$2.07 and \$2.28 million. The re-incarceration cost for inmates who receive correctional education was \$.087 to \$.097 million less.

Analysis of vocational information demonstrated that employment among released inmates was 13 percent higher for those who participated in academic or vocational education programs. Also, one study compared the incidence of high school diploma to conviction status, and found that 36 percent of those in state prisons had less than a high school diploma, compared to 19 percent of the general U.S. adult population.

The study was a comprehensive review of the scientific literature and research on education in prison. This type of large-scale data collection and analysis, collected by many organizations over many years, is often called meta-analysis. It is a way of bringing together data from various other studies, which have been conducted over the years. Here, according to Davis, it has produced demonstrable proof that education has merit.

While correctional officials and policy makers struggle to cope during a period of constrained government spending, it seems clear that the education approach works best. While more research must be conducted on economics, it appears that not only does education reduce recidivism, it also reduces costs of incarceration by reducing the requirement of prison plant and equipment. It is clear from the report, when one combines the reduced cost of incarcerating inmates, with the positive result of turning the inmate into a taxpaying, contributing community member, it is a win-win situation.

characters in real time," said teacher Joel Kaufman.

There are varieties of educational subject materials available within the system. However, classrooms at San Quentin have no access to the internet, said Kaufman.

According to Kaufman,

al including English, grammar, English as a second language, geography, history, mathematics, social studies, reading, science, special education and literature.

The new curriculum and SMART Boards will provide proficiency and fluency to as-

U.S. Congress Address Drug Policies And Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

By Chung C. Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

It seems the U.S. Congress rarely agrees on any issues these days. It has, though, agreed on one thing in recent years: mandatory minimum sentencing reform.

"Mandatory minimum sentencing is a costly and counterproductive cookie-cutter approach that removes a judge's ability to apply a fairer sentence," said Jasmine Tyler, deputy director of national affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit which advocates for drug sentencing reform.

A number of members of Congress have introduced bipartisan bills to reform the federal mandatory minimum drug-sentencing policies. This follows the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. It significantly reduced the disparity in crack and powder cocaine sentences and eliminated the first mandatory minimum penalty since the 1970s.

Congress enacted the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 and the Anti-drug Abuse Act of 1986, under which federal judges are without discretion but to sentence federal drug offenders to statutory minimums.

Early in 2013, a bill was introduced to give federal judges the authority to impose a sentence below a mandatory minimum

to prevent an unjust or irrational sentence. The measure, H.R. 1695, was presented by Reps. Bobby Scott, D-Va., Thomas Massie, R-Ky. and five others. It was a companion bill to S. 619, introduced a month earlier by Sens. Rand Paul, R-Ky. and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. in the Senate, titled the Justice Safety Valves Act.

In July 2013, legislation was introduced to cut the length of some mandatory minimum drug sentences in half and expand access to the safety valve for federal drug offenders. It would also afford retroactivity for the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. The measure, S. 1410, was proposed by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Leahy. Titled the Smarter Sentencing Act, it was followed by a companion bill, H.R. 3382, introduced by Reps. Raul Labrador, D-Idaho, and Scott plus seven others in the House of Representatives on October 30, 2013.

Efforts at drug sentencing reform come as no surprise. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission and a report by the Congressional Research Service, mandatory minimums have significantly contributed to overcrowding and racial disparities in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

The BOP operates at nearly 140 percent capacity—and is on track to use one-third of the Justice Department's budget.

More than half of the prisoners in BOP are serving time for a drug law violation.

"I am honored to join Congressman Labrador as a cosponsor of the Smarter Sentencing Act," said Rep. Scott, "Granting federal judges more discretion in sentencing for nonviolent drug offenses is the right thing to do. Studies of mandatory minimums conclude that they fail to reduce crime, they waste the taxpayers' money, and they often require the imposition of sentences that violate common sense.

"This bipartisan bill targets particularly egregious mandatory minimums and returns discretion to federal judges in an incremental manner. This legislation is an important step in updating sentencing policies that are not working, that are costing taxpayers too much, and do nothing to make our families and communities safer," Scott added.

The U.S. leads the world in the incarceration of its own citizens, accounting for nearly 25 percent of the world's prison population, reports the Drug Policy Alliance. Recently, Attorney General Eric Holder said there are too many people in prison and it is time for federal sentencing reform. In his remarks, Holder encouraged a partnership between the legislative and executive branches to work to solve the issue.

S.Q. Officer P. Jo Showcases Hidden Photo Talent

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Officer P. Jo, 34, is putting his talents to good use. His picture of San Quentin was selected to be the image for the 2014 San Quentin calendar.

He says, “It feels great that the administration selected my photo, but most of my thanks must go to San Quentin Office Technician Raphael Casale because she is the one who pushed me.”

Jo, who has been taking pictures for about a decade, has

never received any formal training. “Everything I learned about taking pictures, I learned online.”

His pictures are like stories, each image capturing a moment in time but transcending the moment to live on in the viewer’s mind.

There is a hidden power behind each image.

“I see my pictures more as a hobby right now, but for the viewer they may see it as art; it’s all about perspective,” says Jo.

He says the whole picture is a process, “Sometimes I wait four or five hours in one spot for the right moment to take the picture.” Jo says it takes patience when he is waiting for the proper light or composition, but it is time well spent.

He says he has always been fascinated with cameras, and as a child his father took him out into nature, and he fell in love with it.

This fascination and love has transformed into Jo’s art. His favorite subjects are landscapes,

but he also enjoys taking pictures of cities.

The time he spends away from his job as a CDCR officer, he says he travels a lot. “I like to go to national parks and foreign countries,” Jo says. Wherever he goes, his camera goes with him.

When he retires, he says that he may take up a career in photography.

He gives his father a lot of credit for inspiring him. “My dad introduced me to nature, and if he never did that, I wouldn’t have known what’s out there

in the world,” says Jo. He says without this opportunity to see the world he would have probably just spent all of his time sitting on the couch playing video games.

Jo also recognizes that other photographers have motivated him to take some of his photos to the extreme. He says he takes it to the limit to get the perfect shot sometimes.

Jo is very humble about his photographs saying, “I am just the eye behind the camera.”



Photo by P. Jo

A Winters Day in Sunny California

Prison Humor Highlights PUP’s Annual Open Mic Event

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Tommy Winfrey read a selected chapter from a memoir, *The Things I Peed On*, and had a crowd of about 100 inmates grabbing their sides with laughter, as San Quentin’s Prison University Project held its annual open mic. Aaron Taylor, also known as The Show, had the audience yelling, “Aw hell no!” to his descriptions of silly inmate behavior. Angel Falcone’s poem, “If the Shoe Fits,” satirized inmate behavior, too.

Most of the prison-based humor would not be so easy for free people to understand. However, Lee Jaspas’s ribbing of the governor, by saying, “Jazz would make Jerry Brown more honest,” the audience’s applause showed he had made his point.

James Vick’s offering (part of a classroom assignment) brought tears to some of his listeners as he described a May

1979 photograph of his father’s funeral. Vick said at that time he was locked up in San Quentin. “Over half the photos in my album are of people who have died.”

Following Vick was Peter M. Bergne. Bergne’s poem about prison life, and the importance of staying positive was uplifting. Bergne is in his 70’s and still actively writing.

Kevin Tindall expressed his hopes for the future, as he talked about having his life sentence reduced to time served. Tindall was resentenced on December 19, 2013, due to changes in California’s Three-Strikes Law as a result of Proposition 36. In early January, Tindall was released from prison.

Other acts were:

Marlon Beason performing an original song, *Everyday’s a Good Day, if You Don’t Believe Me, Miss One*. “It’s a song about life,” Beason said.

Atik Pathan told a story about doing the same thing over and over, and expecting a different

result.

Antwan “Banks” Williams performed a song he said was about pain, survival, redemption and salvation.

Emile Deweaver read his poem, *Attraction*.

Richard Dino read two of his poems, *God’s Little Angel* and *Pledge to a Friend*.

Jeff Scott Long read *Convict’s Son*, *True Face* and *The Gardener*.

Micheal “YaYah” Cooke read his poems, *Kiss*, *The Seed* and *In the Realm of Nowhere*.

“JB,” soon to be paroled, read, *Understanding Life While Serving It*. The sonnet laments JB’s 23 years spent in prison and how he was able to change his criminal thinking 10 years into his incarceration.

Adriel Ramirez sang a Gospel song while playing keyboard. The song, *God Helped Me*, *So I Wouldn’t Let Go*, was dedicated to the Patten teachers who motivated him into getting over his depression and moving forward with his life.

Richard Lathan read a poem dedicated to his mother. Lathan also read a poem rejected by the editors of the anthology, *Open Line*, that was written in response to the killings at Sanddyhook.

John Neblett read a poem by Robert Graves that acknowledges the wisdom of a son honoring his mother.

Nelson “Noble” Butler gave a reading about some of the most tragic killings of 2013. Oscar Grant, Hadyis Pendelton, Sanddyhook, and Trayvon Martin.

Malik Laramore read several of his poems, *Stomach*, *In You*, *Diving Board*, and *Arrested*.

Chris Gallo did a reading based on accountability and integrity.

Maverick’s poem highlighted accountability to community and having integrity. He also performed a song with Lee Jaspas and Antwan “Banks” Williams about transformation.

James Jenkins read from Tim Wise’s book, *Color Blind*. The section Jenkins read focused

on how to uplift the poor without focusing on race. Jenkins said he learned that the best way to deal with inequality is to focus on safety-net policies and to look at class structure.

Larry White took the stage to give thanks to the teachers. He described the daily routine that inmates go through in seeking to be educated.

Antonio Genovese read two poems, *Dreams of a Loney Man* and *When Forever is Over*.

Raymond Bodine’s self-deprecation in *Raymond Kisses Like a Fish* sounded somewhat awkward and comical. But it played perfectly into his overall message that encouraged other inmates to look back on their lives to get an understanding about themselves.

Carlos Meza’s poem was about freedom and love.

A. Kevin Valvardi read two poems, *The Seeds I Sow* and *For What It’s Worth*.

All in all, it was a jam-packed and enjoyable Open Mic Night.

Happy Valentine's Day

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of February is full of special observations. According to the World Almanac, February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, Library Lovers Month, Youth Leadership Month, and Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month.

Among the observed days, there is a special celebration of the heart.

It is a holiday for those who desire affection and for those who love romance. It is the celebration of love. But what is love?

"Love" is defined by Webster's dictionary as a feeling of strong affection or warm attachment to another person. It is a person who is beloved. Moreover, it is also the act of being unselfish, loyal, and benevolent toward others.

When we love, we cherish and/or feel passion for another person. When we love, we are devoted to and are tender with someone else. We take pleasure in the company of that individual or individuals.

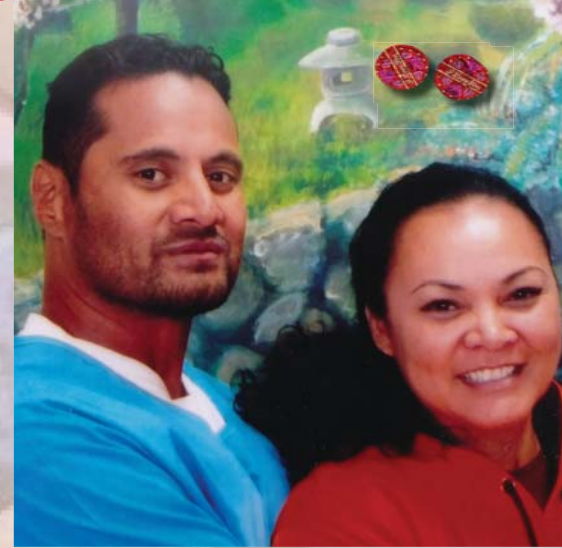
The celebration of love is Valentine's Day, occurring every year on February 14th.

How do the men in blue feel about love?

Ask on the Line conducted random informal interviews with men on the mainline



Elena and Robert Fry



Upu and Sanita Ama

and asked: Do you believe in true love? And if so, who was, or is, the greatest love of your life? What would you say to that individual or individuals?

One hundred percent of

the men interviewed said they believe in love. Some even thought that the first question was absurd.

It was clear that every man in blue had a soft spot in his heart for someone.

Eduardo Delapena said the greatest love of his life is his family. "I thank God for blessing me with them," he said with emotion.

Robert Fry sends this message to Elena, his friend of 14 years and currently his "L.P." for the past two years: "May our Journey together be filled with unabashed love and companionship."

Pablo Ramirez said that his greatest loves are his mother, his wife, and his children. He would tell them, "Los extraño mucho y los quiero." [I miss you all and I love you.]

Martin Gomez also adores his family. His greatest loves are his wife and children. He would tell them, "Los amo mucho." [I love you all very much.]

Watani Stiner said my granddaughter Khyra brings so much joy to peoples lives, and she is the sweetest little Valentine candy in my life.

Bruce Cooper and Michael Gonzalez said that their greatest love is Jesus Christ.

If Gonzalez could send Jesus a message, he would say to Jesus: "I'm sorry I never lived up to your expectations of me, but perhaps one day, I will."

Cooper would tell Jesus, "Take me home."

Valeray Richardson, Tony Harris, and Carlos Ramirez all said that "God" is their greatest love.

"Thank you for loving me the way you do," is what Richardson would say to God.

"Thank you for not giving up on me," said Harris.

Upu Ama wanted his wife to know that, "in 1994 you became my Valentine Queen, and you still wear that crown till this very day. Love your husband.

Carlos Ramirez would speak to God in Spanish, "Gracias por enseñarme el amor." ["Thank you for teaching me love."]

Cassandra Rena Cooksey Richardson wanted to pass this message on to everyone. Bless Someone Today! It is more blessed (makes one happier and more to be envied) to give than to receive. Act 20:35. Spend some time this morning thinking about what you can do for somebody else. Don't wait for God to ask you to do something; take the initiative and

Gonzalez asserted that his "Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," is his greatest love.



Khyra Stiner



James and Char Cavitt

say, "okay God, what can I do to be a blessing on your behalf today?" The best days you live are the ones you spend loving other people. Choose a particular person and think about blessing him or her. Love Sana.

Phil Melendez said, "I just want to thank my love for always being there for me and loving me since we were kids. Thank you for loving me now and forever. We're so fortunate to be each other's best friends. I love the way you love me and I promise to always be yours and love you with all that I am."

Some of the men said their children are the greatest loves of their lives. Larry Histon, Joe Demerson and Robert Morales adore their children.

Histon would tell his two daughters, "I love you both very much."

Morales said his greatest love is his daughter. If he could speak to her, he would tell her, "I love you very, very, very much!"

Joe Demerson said that his greatest love of all time is his son. His message to his son: "Always believe in yourself, always."

Jose Segura, Armando Garcia, Tim Thompson,

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez, and Billy Terry all cited their mothers as their greatest loves.

Segura and Garcia would send their mothers a message in Spanish.

Segura said, "Gracias por



Ana and Phil Melendez

haberme traído a este mundo." [Thank you for bringing me into this world.]

Garcia said, "Yo la quiero mucho." [I love you very much.]

"I will always love you," is what Tim would say to his mother.

"I love you and I miss you very much," said Ramirez.

James Cavitt wishes to send this message to Char Cavitt: "The greatest gift that anyone can give is Love. Love not only changes the individuals...it changes the world."

Frederick Willis sends the following words to his daughters Aisha and LaToya: "Happy Valentine's Day! Daddy is coming home! I love you Boo and Pooh!"

Darnell Hill and Curly Joe both said their wives are the greatest loves in their lives.

"I would tell my wife: 'Trust God first, trust yourself second, and trust man as long as he trusts God,'" said Hill.

"I would say to my wife: 'I love you very, very much,'" said Joe.

Jesus Flores said that the greatest love in his life are his parents. Jesus Flores believes that his parents are the only people in the world who truly love him unconditionally. He would say to his



Fredrick Willis

parents, "You have my eternal love and respect."

Vicente Gomez and Armando Quezado both said that women in general are their greatest loves.

If Gomez could send a message to women, it would be, "Sépan apreciar del hombre bueno que cuida mucho a su mujer." [Appreciate a good man who takes care of his woman.]

Quezado would say to all women, "Ustedes son los seres mas bellos del mundo." [All of you are the most beautiful beings in the world.]

Can love extend to non-human beings? According to Brad Carney, yes. Carney's greatest love is his dog. "He is my most loyal friend; he never testified against me!" If he could give his dog a message he would say, "I wish I was with you!"

Ahmad Polley wishes to give this message to his wife: "Carmen, after 21 years of marriage, we have had our ups and downs. Our love continues to grow! Love you more! Happy Valentine's Day, Your loving husband."

Yours truly, Angelo Falcone, would say to his greatest love: "I think about you all of the time. I pray for you more than I pray for myself. Thank you for showing me consideration and respect. You are a blessing for me and a positive source of support. Thank you for not judging me. Aside from my mother and daughter, you will go down in my history as my greatest love. You gorgeous woman, you!"

Happy Valentine's Day!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sudoku Corner

By Ashmus "Humphrey" Troy

	4					3		5
1				6				
		5			3		2	6
2				4				
			1			7		
	5			7			9	
		4						9
	8				4			
5			7			6		8

		6		3		8		4
			9		6			
5		1						9
	4		8		2		9	
1								3
	8		1		3		6	
3				8		5		1
			5		4			
2		4		6		9		

Complete This Puzzle
Win a Prize!

Tommy is in a hurry to get to a snow ball fight outside, but he can't see the colors of his gloves in the drawer located in his dark room where there are no lights. He knows that he has three green pair, five red pair, eight blue pair, nine black pair, and 12 white pair. How many gloves will he be able to pick out of the drawer in order to get a matching pair?

The answer to last month's puzzle is: Five. Five fishermen can catch five fish per minute. Therefore, five fisherman will be enough to catch one hundred fish in one hundred minutes.

The winners to last month's puzzle is: Arthur McAdory

Congratulations to the following contestants who also got the puzzle right: Brian D. Johnsen, Hayashi, B., Hyung-Jin An, Gene McCallum II.

Rules:
The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by drawing a name from that hat.

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and the winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

Last Issue's
Sudoku Solution

7	1	6	3	8	2	5	9	4
9	4	8	6	1	5	2	7	3
5	3	2	7	9	4	8	6	1
8	5	1	4	7	3	6	2	9
2	9	7	1	5	6	4	3	8
3	6	4	9	2	8	1	5	7
4	2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6
6	7	5	8	4	9	3	1	2
1	8	3	2	6	7	9	4	5

2	6	9	3	8	5	1	7	4
7	1	4	9	2	6	8	3	5
5	3	8	4	1	7	6	2	9
4	9	5	7	6	8	3	1	2
1	8	3	2	4	9	7	5	6
6	7	2	1	5	3	9	4	8
3	4	7	6	9	2	5	8	1
9	5	1	8	3	4	2	6	7
8	2	6	5	7	1	4	9	3

Snippets

Peter the Great, once said to have secretly married his mistress Catherine in 1707 before he publicly married her in 1712.

Umar ibn al-Khattab was such good friends with the prophet Mohammed that in 625 Umar's daughter Hafsa married Mohammed.

Participating in simultaneous kissing for Valentine's Day, Minsk, Belorussia once hosted 6,000 people kissing.

Pregnant women should not eat more than 12 ounces of fish per week due to the high volume of mercury which can be toxic to babies, children and even adults.

Young and innocent, Dorothy Good, also recognized as Dorcas Good was only 4 years old when she was accused of witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials. She was put in jail with her mother Sarah Good.

Love don't live here anymore. A marriage ends with a divorce every ten to thirteen seconds.

On May 30, 1431, Joan of Arc's last words were, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," as she was burned to death.

Venus, the brightest star in the sky also has no moon. It takes 243 Earth days for Venus to rotate just one day.

Ebony could not have spent seven weeks in the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1982 without Ivory.



Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



ENDER'S GAME (By Orson Scott Card) Ender Wiggin and other geniuses are bred and trained by the world government to excel in games for a hidden agenda.



FIREBRAND (By Marion Zimmer Bradley) story of Trojan Princess and seer Cassandra, who was cursed so that her accurate predictions would not be believed.



CAROLINA MOON (By Nora Roberts) Tory Bodeen returns to her South Carolina childhood home to start a new life and instead finds reminders of an old tragedy.

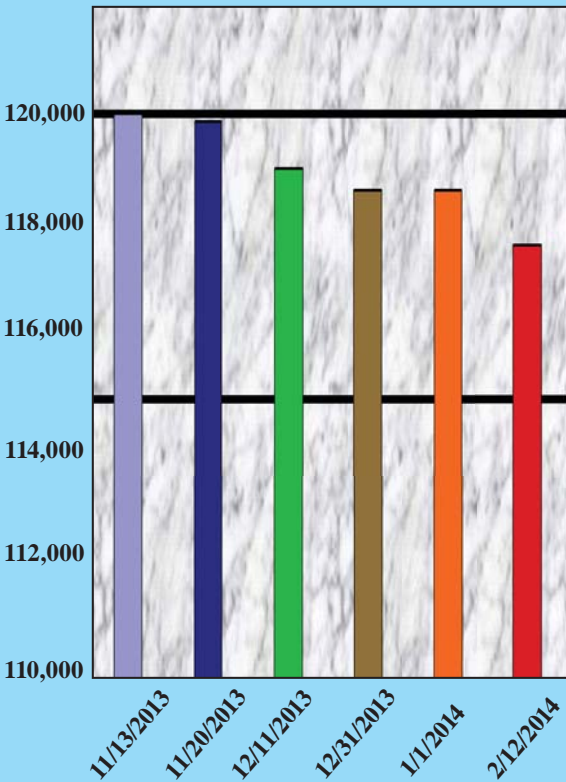


THE DARWIN AWARDS (By Wendy Northcutt) Hilarious screwups of what people do to prove "evolution in action."

RATINGS:

Top responses are four trophies progressing downward to one; Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

CDCR POPULATION = 117,686
DESIGNED CAPACITY OF 34 PRISONS
[STOCKTON HOSPITAL ADDED] = 81, 574
COURT ORDERED CAP: 137.5
PERCENT OF DESIGNED CAPACITY = 112,164
5,474 ABOVE COURT-ORDERED CAP



The Real Strength Behind Absentee Fathers

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

Much attention is paid to absentee fathers without affording due consideration and respect for the sacrifices and strong impact of mothers. My eldest son, in this article, pays homage to his mother, the true spirit behind the OG. – Watani Stiner.

By Larry Stiner Jr.

January of 1948 brought the birth of my parents. In January 1969, gunshots on the U.C.L.A. campus effectively ended their marriage. In January 2005, the children my father produced while in exile arrived in America to live with me as my father’s re-incarceration stretched into years. Now, in February-March 2014, I write in reflection of how the completion of this unusual circle of life was made possible. I salute the woman behind the Invisible OG.

Behind every good man is a good...well, you know the rest. I had been in my mother’s stomach for seven months when the Los Angeles “Watts” Revolt exploded in August 1965. That uprising changed the course of my life even before I breathed my first breath. By the time I tasted the sweetness of my fourth birthday cake, my mother was dealing with the pain of her husband, my father, being sentenced to life in prison as a result of his dedicated involvement in an intense revolutionary movement. Indeed I can say I lost my father’s physical presence to his incarceration, prison escape and subsequent self-imposed exile but, thanks to my mother, I cannot say I grew up without his influence.



Larry Stiner Jr.

Though she wasn’t always in agreement with what he was called upon to do in fighting for “the cause,” she was steadfast in her effort to make sure I understood his sacrifice and why he chose to walk the path he did. In essence, she kept alive the positive spirit of the Invisible OG.

Through a limited collection of photographs, my mother satisfied my craving for a visual representation of my father. Like bandages wrapped around the invisible man, those Polaroid pictures gave presence to the absent dad I grew to greatly respect. She helped clarify my father’s voice by truthfully answering my questions about some of the letters he had written to me from prison before becoming a fugitive. Later, she would present me with a scrap book of newspaper and magazine articles documenting the high profile incident and court case that lead to him being separated from our family. Though media accounts would often differ from the stories she shared with me about my father, my mother understood

the importance of not hiding opposing viewpoints and allowing me to form my own opinions as I matured and processed information from all sides. As a youngster, however, I found comfort in picturing my father as illustrated by what came out of my mother’s mouth. After all, no one knew the unseen OG better than the woman he married.

My early childhood group of friends consisted of several boys also living in fatherless households. Often, sprinkled into general conversation, negative comments about their fathers would easily roll off of their young tongues. Because those comments were usually preceded by the words, “My mama told me,” I never felt compelled to question them. After all, my unwavering belief in the goodness of my own invisible father was based wholeheartedly on my mother’s words about him. Whether beneficial or detrimental, my friends and I shared a one parent world in which whatever mama said was usually perceived as law. If she said, “Your daddy is a hero,” we’d look to the sky for a muscle-bound man in a cape. Conversely, if she called him a dog, we’d save a few chicken bones in case he showed up for dinner one night. It was a world that seemed to be simple enough but, in actuality, had the potential to be quite complicated without a father’s presence to balance things out. Moving forward in life, I began to better understand the sheer power of a single mother’s influence. I started to recognize the impact, either positive or negative, that she could have

on a child who hung strongly on her every word.

In the years that followed, the anger, attitudes and actions of some of my father-resenting friends caused me to consider how differently my life might have turned out had I grown up without a respect for the Invisible OG and what he was about. Absent the strong backbone and foresight of my mother who highlighted a constructive image of my father, I may very well have looked elsewhere for someone to emulate and seek validation from. I might have given in to peer-pressure and not been so willing to go against the grain when necessary. I may have easily been swept up by that huge wave of gang activity that flooded the streets of South Central Los Angeles just after the various socially conscious organizations started to fade. Some would call it a miracle that I made it through the unprecedented inner city violence of the late 1970s and 1980s without taking either a bullet or a plea deal. Statistics were also against me managing to maneuver through the 1990’s without being lured into the trap of crack cocaine which, at the risk of death or addiction, provided temporary riches, relief and “Hood-Star” status to many of my peers.

Fast-forward to January 2005. With my father still incarcerated more than ten years after voluntarily surrendering to authorities, a plane landed at the Los Angeles International Airport carrying the six children he fathered in South America while on the run. With the blessing and unconditional support of my wife, I had agreed to take in and become the legal guardian of the teenaged siblings I had never met. One could say their arrival put me in the position of substituting for the invisible OG. In addition to focusing on

being a father and male role-model for my own two daughters, I suddenly had four young sisters and two young brothers to care for. It wasn’t long into this new challenge before I started to realize I was at the center of a remarkable circle of life. And thanks to the words and actions of the woman who raised me, I had grown into a man willing to do all I could to hold that circle together.

“My friends and I shared a one-parent world in which whatever mama said was usually perceived as law”

Thinking back and understanding how important my mother’s unique parenting had been in conjunction with her constant effort to have me see my father in an admirable light, I felt like I had a solid blueprint to follow in guiding my siblings. Not only had that design kept me out of trouble but it had also managed to keep me spiritually connected to my father despite his many years of invisibility. For that reason, even while separated by prison walls, it was easy to quickly develop a true relationship with him upon his return to America. And over the nearly 20 years that he’s been back, I’ve been able to see for myself that my mother had been sincere in proclaiming my father to be a good man. More importantly, I truly understand that behind every good man is a good...well, you know the rest. I salute my mother and all of the positive women behind the invisible OGs.

Historical Tale About American’s Largest Slave Revolt

Many of the Revolting Slaves Suffered a Grossly Vindictive Punishment: Decapitation

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Understanding history is a tricky business, always written by he who controls the message. That being said, when looking back to figure out what happened to those not in control, there’s a lot of ineptly reported, outlandish, surprisingly unusual, and jaw-dropping tales to be told.

Daniel Rasmussen finds no exception for this rule in his exhaustive study, *American Uprising: The Untold Story of America’s Largest Slave Revolt*.

“Beneath this story of wealth and riches, behind this tale of progress, lay darker realities. Sugar, cotton, and coffee don’t grow themselves,” Rasmussen writes. “They demand back-breaking, intolerable labor—labor to which no free man would choose to submit.”

The historical facts behind

what slavery was all about cannot be escaped. Every American knows about it. However, few know about the horrific details of what happened to hundreds of Louisiana slaves after a revolt was put down in January 1811.

Rasmussen found evidence of 124 individual slaves to the revolt, while eyewitness observers estimated their numbers at between 200 and 500.

Many of the revolting slaves suffered a grossly vindictive punishment—decapitation. Their heads then were left on pikes for display, rotting away in the summer heat as a reminder to the rest of the slaves about the consequence for disobedience—a part of history largely untold through the efforts of the appointed governor

of Louisiana, William Claiborne, who first criminalized, then marginalized the revolt.

“Hidden History Tours provides authentic presentation of history that is not well known”

However, 21 newspapers, many of them in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, reprinted a comment from the Louisiana Courier condemning the actions against the slaves, Rasmussen notes. “But, despite this opposition, Claiborne’s narrative pre-

vailed where it counted most, among the powerful elite who governed Louisiana and the nation and, in the centuries to follow, among historians,” adding, “Swallowing Claiborne’s interpretation, most historians have portrayed the slave-rebels not as political revolutionaries but as common criminals.”

In spite of the failure of the 1811 revolt, slaves continued to pass down stories about the famous insurrection, according to *American Uprising*. “And for the 50 years leading up to the Civil War, these stories served as an inspiration for those trapped in slavery,” writes Rasmussen.

Rasmussen documents 178,985 enlisted Black soldiers and 7,122 officers who served in the Civil War, where 37,300

“laid down their lives for freedom.” “Seventeen black soldiers and four African American sailors won Congressional Medals of Honor. They fought in 449 engagements, of which 39 were major battles,” according to *American Uprising*.

Rasmussen also writes about Leon Waters, a 60-year-old activist, who has been involved with radical political causes since the Vietnam War.

At the time *American Uprising* went to press, Waters was giving tours, called *Hidden History Tours*, keeping the uprising in the present for curious student groups and tourists from out of town. “Hidden History Tours provides authentic presentation of history that is not well known,” promises Waters’ Website. “Though virtually unknown outside of his community, Waters is perhaps the most knowledgeable man in the country about the 1811 revolt,” Rasmussen writes.

BOOK REVIEW

Report Says Justice System Fails To Identify and Treat Inmates' Mental Health Needs

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

The American criminal justice system largely fails to identify mental illness and its relationship to crime, according to VERA Institute of Justice.

"Identifying mental health needs and providing treatment before people become entrenched in the justice system is an important preventive strategy," VERA reports.

Law enforcement, courts, and corrections officials are aware of inmates who are struggling with mental illness, according to Substance Use and Mental Health Program, director Jim Parsons.

"Court rooms, jails, police stations, and probation offices are fast-paced environments, and people working in these settings typically lack the tools and resources necessary to accurately identify those who require mental health support," said Parsons.

VERA reported that throughout the U.S. criminal justice system there are many people with serious mental illnesses who are trapped in "a cycle of repeated arrest and incarceration."

The study finds these people do not receive the treatment or services needed to help them function in society.

"For people who receive treatment while they are in jail, prison, or under the supervision of probation or parole agencies, the challenges of reentry compounded by a lack of coordination between agencies often leads them to lose contact with services when they return home or complete their period of supervision," said Parsons.

The study reported that overrepresentation of people with mental health problems in our justice system is attracting more attention by researchers.

"Identifying people who need mental health services is the first step to their receiving appropriate care"

Researcher Henry J. Steadman and colleagues found that nationwide, 15 percent of male jail inmates and 31 percent of female jail inmates had current serious mental illness.

"Identifying people who need mental health services

is the first step to their receiving appropriate care," the report said.

A recent study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that mental health services were available to 34 percent of people in prisons nationwide.

Additionally, the BJS found that 17 percent of those confined in jails have access to mental health services.

The BJS study concluded that part of the reason for the lack of services, as it relates to criminal behavior, is failure to accurately identify mental illness as the cause of criminal behavior.

Additionally, the report found nationally, support services for the mentally ill lack sufficient funding.

However, the report pointed out that attention to this social dynamic is increasing. It said as science, societies evolve, and mature, there has been a matching increase in treatment for people with mental health problems subjected to the criminal justice system.

To create these opportunities for people with mental health problems, mental health courts, alternatives to incarceration, and jail-based re-entry services are being used through out the criminal justice system, according to VERA.

Recent CDCR appointments By Governor Brown

Michael Stainer, 50, of El Dorado Hills, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Institutions by Gov. Jerry Brown. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$155,436 annually. Stainer is a Republican.

Millicent Tidwell, 52, of Sacramento, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitative Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$140,292 annually. Tidwell is a Democrat.

Rodger Meier, 49, of Rescue, has been appointed deputy director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitative Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$136,200 annually. Meier is registered decline-to-state.

Brian Duffy, 54, of Sacramento, has been appointed warden at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. This position does not require Senate confirmation and pays \$130,668. Duffy is a Republican.

Thomas Curby Henderson Died From Fourth Tier Fall

'Charlie was a nice person. I hope he's going to a better place'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Thomas Curby Henderson, 60, better known to inmates and as the meek, hard working, and humble "Charlie," died on Jan. 23 at Marin General Hospital following a four-story fall at San Quentin State Prison on Jan. 22.

Charlie's death, still under investigation, shocked many of the men housed with him.

The Marin Independent Journal reported Charlie's death, which attracted several merciless comments. [San Quentin Prisoner Dies After Plunge from Fourth-Story Tier; <http://www.marinij.com>].

"A man lost his life and the comments indicate readers are happy about it," said inmate Tommy Winfrey, 31. "I understand society's need to sit in judgment of prisoners and their pass deeds. But what I have a hard time accepting is the total lack of empathy of another human being. The man they condemn for murder suffered from the very same problem once and it cost two lives."

"Celebrating or minimizing another person's death whether it be suicide, murder, or natural is abhorrent," Winfrey said. "I'm not a Christian, but after

reading the comments about Charlie's death, the old Bible verse, 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone,' comes to mind."

On Jan. 31, about 50 of Charlie's brethren gathered in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel for a memorial service.

"Charlie had integrity, and honesty. He was loyal and generous. He was a loving father and grandfather," said his best friend, Dwight Lee Krebs, 66.

Krebs said he was cellmates with Charlie while doing time at R.J. Donovan State Prison. "I knew him five years, we were cellies for two years," he said.

Charlie is survived by two sisters, three daughters and four grandchildren.

"Any time when I'd ask Charlie if he needs anything, he'd answer by saying 'I'd like to hug my grandchildren,'" Krebs said. "His grandchildren were the apple of his life. Getting out of prison was secondary to his love for his grandchildren. He was very loving, when it came to them."

Charlie liked the anonymously written poem, *Songs*, Krebs said. "When Charlie read it, he loved it. So, I told him, 'It's your poem.' I was fortunate enough to get to know Charlie for who he was, not for what he

did."

Inmate, Malik Ar-Raheem said, "Charlie was a nice person. I hope he's going to a better place."

Harrison Laverne took the podium at the memorial service



File photo

Thomas Curby Henderson

and said, "I was on the Yard Crew with Charlie at Donovan. He was the nicest person I've ever known. Once Charlie came up to me and said, 'Anything you ever need, just ask.' And one time, I lost my beanie, and instantly, Charlie was there with another one for me. He was such a happy person."

The inmates' representative to the warden Sam Johnson

said, "When I heard he committed suicide, I was hurt, because it was another life lost. I pray that God will comfort his children. I thank God for the short time I knew Charlie."

Inmate and college student Forrest Jones echoed his words.

"One day, he just came out of the blue and struck up a conversation with me. Charlie said, 'How you're doing?' He just wanted to talk to somebody," Jones said. "I feel bad that I didn't spend more time with such a seemingly wonderful person."

Father George Williams, San Quentin's Catholic Chaplain, also spoke at the ceremony.

"His life made a difference to a lot of you. In confidence we pray that he's in God's hands," Williams said. "When you're feeling times of overwhelming pain, come and talk to me or one of the other chaplains," he advised.

Father George ended the tribute by reading selected passages from the Bible.

Louie Light, an inmate and friend of Henderson who did not attend the services, said that about a week before he died, he was watching a ping pong game when Henderson walked up to him and said, "Do you mind if I can get that trash?" He was

pointing at some trash by my foot, buried deep in the ground," Light said. "I thought to myself, 'Nobody would take the time to do this type of work.' So, I said to him, 'Wow you really take pride in your work.' Charlie replied, 'Nobody else cares. I'm one of the few who does.' When I heard it was him, it really took me by surprise, because he was always so positive."

SONG

By Anonymous:

*When I am dead, my friend,
Sing no sad songs for me.
Plant no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress trees.
Just plant the green grass
above me
That flowers with dew drops,
wet.
For if you may remember me,
For if you may forget;
Because I shall not see the shadows,
And I shall not feel the rain,
And I shall not hear that nightingale
Sing on as if in pain,
As I'm dreaming through
this twilight
That does not rise nor set.
Happily, you may remember me, my friend;
Sadly, you may forget.*

Pianist Sarah Cahill Honors Former San Quentin Inmate With a Concert in the Protestant Chapel

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A concert honoring former San Quentin inmate Henry Cowell drew an eclectic crowd of inmates and outside visitors to San Quentin's Protestant Chapel. Performers included concert pianist Sarah Cahill and the Ives String Quartet.

Cowell "was very prolific for a person who only had one hour a week to play the piano" while in prison, said Cahill. He had a "profound influence on 20th-Century music," the January event program reported.

Because San Quentin does not have a grand piano, special arrangements were made to have one temporarily donated, moved by a special company, and tuned for the performances, one held in the morning, the other that evening.

The music, all written by Cowell, and played by Cahill and the quartet, began with *Celtic Set (Reel, Caoine, and Hornpipe)*, followed by *The Lover Plays his Flute* from *Amerind Suite*.

Cahill said Cowell wanted to write music that enlisted a

variety of cultures that could be accepted universally. He wanted to compose music to satisfy people other than his contemporaries.

She said, *The Lover Plays His Flute* is an emotional piece that evokes feelings and thoughts of Native American Indians, who inspired the music.

Cowell was also influenced by the music of the East, composing and uniting Chinese and Japanese music, Cahill commented.

Celtic Set was a slowly paced piece. It was a relaxing arrangement that fit the melancholy mood and atmosphere of prison life.

Following those compositions, Cahill played *Rhythmica*. "It's a real revolutionary piece about rhythm," she said.

A standing ovation greeted the Quartet's performance of Cowell's *String Quartet No. 4 ("United")*.

When Cowell was 14 years old, he did menial jobs and was later able to purchase an old piano. He taught himself to play using his fists and forearms to

gain a two octave reach, Cahill told the audience.

After explaining to the audience how Cowell played the piano using unconventional methods, Cahill played the piano with her fists and forearm, similar to Cowell to illustrate his unorthodox technique.

"If you get on a piano and just start banging, that's noise. But that's organized composition," said Terry Slaughter, referring to Cahill's use of Cowell's techniques.

Amy Ho, who teaches an art class in San Quentin, said, "I thought it was amazing."

When Cowell was imprisoned at San Quentin from 1936 to 1940, he taught music to more than 1,000 of his fellow inmates.

Among Cowell's students outside of prison were notables such as George Gershwin, Burt Bacharach, John Cage, and Lou Harrison.

The program also featured four inmates enrolled in a piano class taught by community volunteer Patricia Allred.

"It's such a pleasure and a treat to work with them," said Allred. "It is a teacher's dream

to get to teach students who really want to learn," referring to the students in her Wednesday morning piano class.

"It's a real revolutionary piece about rhythm"

Gino Sevacos performed a song he wrote called *No Greater Love*. "I realized I was separated from my higher self. God called me back," said Sevacos, referring to his music.

Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett played and sang *Is It Okay If I Call You Mine*. "Okay, I'm terrified, but I'm going to give it a shot," said Padgett.

Robert Tyler, another one of Allred's piano students who has been playing for many years, performed an original classical piece he named *All That I Can Do*.

"The movements in the *Celtic*, *Caoine* are actually a funeral piece. You can hear the sadness," said Tyler.

The closing act in Allred's class was performed by Lee

Jaspar, who is an accomplished jazz guitar and piano player with more than 40 years of professional experience. Jaspar sang and played an original composition he wrote several years ago, titled *Spring*.

Members of the Ives String Quartet smiled as they looked on while Jaspar performed. Inmates reacted with a standing ovation.

"I, and I alone, am responsible for the conditions in my life," Jaspar said prior to his performance. He also teaches music theory to more than a dozen inmates who show up to his classes on weekends in the prison gymnasium.

Jaspar is a tough act to follow, Cahill said at the evening performance. "It was this morning also."

The concert concluded with a rousing standing ovation for all of the performers.

Cahill is host of *Revolutions per Minute*, a radio show that airs Sunday evenings on KALW, 91.7 in San Francisco.

—Juan Haines contributed to this article

Restorative Justice Symposium Draws Outsiders

'Everything we need to bring positive change is already here'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nearly 50 outsiders ventured inside a state prison, finding their way to its Catholic Chapel for a Restorative Justice symposium that brought crime victims, community members, and offenders together in dialog.

Every person, whether free or incarcerated, placed a nametag on their chest so they could practice the tenants of the new approach to criminal justice on a first-name basis.

"We have everybody here with every race of free people interacting with inmates," said Rose Elizondo, a community volunteer who has been coming inside San Quentin for many years. "This is what God sees as community," she said, comparing the symposium to how Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries builds community.

The symposium featured keynote speaker Rita Renjitham Alfred, head of the Restorative Justice Institute in Berkeley.

She asked people in the audience to close their eyes and think about the image of community. "What does that look like?"

"It looks like a circle of people," an inmate said. "A circle of children sitting around a bonfire," one of the free people said.

Alfred then invited the audience to turn to each other and say something about the other person's name. With smiling faces, gestures of

friendliness and heads nodding, inmates and free people chatted for several minutes, until a bell chimed.

Understanding history is important when working to make change in the community, Alfred said. The change could only occur through self-awareness and the ability to utilize empathy. When you bring those things together with a foundation of values, the needed change will come, she added.

"We need the people with the power working with the people with no power"

"We need the people with the power working with the people with no power," she said. "The people with power need a way to show the people without power how to behave. The strength of the powerful is formal, while the strength of the powerless is informal. The strength of Restorative Justice is the circle. However, how do we get the people with the power to sit in the circle?"

Alfred identified seven beliefs embodied in all people, relationships, and communities:

The true self in everyone is good, wise, and powerful. What we do is not who we

are.

The world is profoundly interconnected; we must realize our actions have consequences. What we do to others, we do to ourselves.

All human beings have a deep desire to be in a good relationship. "There's much suffering in the world but the greatest suffering is being alone," Alfred said, quoting Mother Teresa.

All living beings have gifts and everyone is needed for what they bring. All gifts are indispensable to the well-being of the whole. Diversity in human nature is required for the whole.

Everything we need to bring positive change is already here. We believe our communities hold great reservoirs of resources.

Human beings are holistic. The mind, body, and spirits are important to our being.

We need to practice living from the core self.

Dr. Mary Elliott has been coming inside San Quentin to help facilitate San Quentin's RJ group since 2007. There are about 115 inmates in the group with about 200 on the waiting list.

"I was impressed by the quality of presence of the men in blue," Elliott said. "Their power of truth, power of sincerity and power of involvement is authentic." For guidance, she said the group uses *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, by Barbara Toews.

In the beginning, Elliott said that they struggled to get people from the outside to par-

ticipate.

"It took a lot of time to get the ball rolling," she said. "However, what kept the group going was the work of Leonard Rubio, Vinny Russo, Kevin Tindall, and many other dedicated inmates."

Rubio and Russo have since paroled. However, they still support the group, Elliott said. "When Leonard left, the guys stepped up and did a fabulous job, especially Kevin Valvardi. Kevin created chapter questions from *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* that are helpful to the group."

One community member, known by inmates as Ms. Jen, has been teaching RJ for about three years in Santa Rita Jail. She said that she has classes for maximum-security detainees. Around 200 to 300 people have been through her program.

Ms. Jen says she hopes Santa Rita would not build new jails with the money it receives from the realignment fund, "but to build a 'one-stop-shop' for offenders who want to turn their lives around."

"I envision a community center that serves probationers and newly released inmates who have educational, health care, and child services needs," Ms. Jen said. "The problem right now is finding the right place, where the community would be welcoming to the idea."

A student enrolled in the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) said she is learning new approaches to psychology by combining the

mind, body and spirit into her study.

Originally from New Orleans, she said it was her first time inside San Quentin. "All the checks coming into the prison were interesting," she said. "Then it was calming; the peaceful feeling I got when entering the chapel."

Another CIIS student also said it was her first time coming inside San Quentin. "My education is teaching me not to just diagnose people and give them some medication, but to understand mind, body, and spirit in order to give more effective treatments for problems."

In honor of the children and teachers killed at Sandy Hook last December, inmate facilitator Dwight Krizman read each name and age, while inmate facilitator Rafael Calix rang a small bell.

"Because we practice Restorative Justice and nobody is talking about the shooter or his mother, we'd like to ring it two more times, so that we may learn from this," Alfred said. The bell rang twice more.

The audience was divided into 10 circle groups consisting of 10 people (a mixture of free and incarcerated people) who engaged in dialog amongst each other for about an hour and a half.

Quoting Nelson Mandela, Tindall told the audience, "No one truly knows a nation, until they've been in its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."

Pretend That You Could Go Back in Time

What advice would you give yourself...and would you listen to it?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

It would probably be frightening for someone from the future to appear before us and provide a message about what is to come and then disappear. However, what if that message was a warning that we should change our course or suffer dire consequences?

Would we listen? Would we change our minds? On the other hand, would we dismiss it as nothing more than a delusion and continue on the same path?

What if people had an opportunity to go back in time to give their younger selves some sound advice—just before making a huge mistake?

Asked On the Line asked 14 mainliners, “If you could go back in time—for less than a minute—to when you are just

Asked On The Line

about to decide to make a horrible mistake, what would you say to your younger self? Remember, you only have less than a minute.”

Some of the men used kind words and reasoning, while others were aggressive and direct.

Valeray Richardson would say to his younger self, “The crime you think carries a maximum term of six years is going to be a life sentence for you. Think of the pain you will cause toward your loved ones. Think of the time that will be taken away from them.”

Orlando Harris said, “Right before I committed the life crime that got me locked up for over three decades, I would say to a young version of myself,

‘Don’t throw away your life. Life is too short. Think about the future, family, and how this choice will affect you for the rest of your life.’”

Nelson Butler would tell his younger self, “You have so much promise and potential. Trust yourself to believe that you have it in you. It will be greater later. Just have faith and hang on.”

Tyrone Allen would go back to February 26, 2010, at around 10 a.m. He was in Fresno heading to a job interview. He had made plans to spend time with his girlfriend.

“An opportunity to commit a crime swells in my thought process. Don’t do it T-Bone! There’s so much riding on this

decision! Simon says ‘Freeze,’” said Tyrone Allen.

Juan Arballo said he would go back 21 years, “I would advise myself to find a role model and to not look for guidance on the streets.”

Michael Tyler would tell his younger self, “It’s okay to ask for help! There’s nothing wrong with saying that this is too much for you to handle by yourself. Your future is based on your choices today. Think!”

Nythell Collins would also encourage his younger self. “Don’t be discouraged! Don’t feel pressured to fit in. It’s not worth it!”

Alexei Ruiz would say to his younger self, “You are worthy, a precious human being and

there are many who care about you and love you.”

Dexter T. Coleman would say, “You were raised to not hurt anyone! So let them have what you don’t need.”

Marvin Arnold would try to reason with his younger self. “Take life more seriously and practice a lot more discipline.”

John Neblett would remind his younger self of his parents. “Just quit what you’re doing right now! Call your mom and dad and say, ‘I love you.’”

Richard Benjamin, Chapple Sims, and Billy Allen would be more direct with their younger selves.

“Jack ____! Do you want to go to prison? No! Then stop and think about it!” said Benjamin.

“Think about it!” said Sims

Billy Allen would tell his younger self, “What are you doing, stupid? It’s not worth it!”

1. Stark, Fla.—Askari Abdullah Muhammad, previously known as Thomas Knight, was executed Jan. 7 for killing a prison guard in 1980.

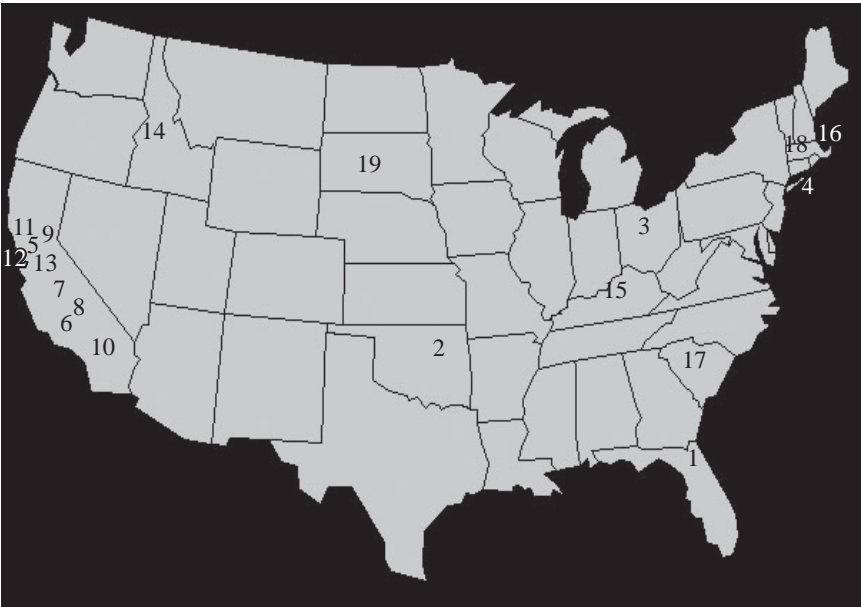
2. McAlester, Okla.—Michael Lee Wilson, 38, was executed by lethal injection on Jan. 9 for killing a co-worker at a Tulsa convenience store where the two worked. Wilson was the third person put to death for the 1995 murder. The fourth defendant is serving a life term.

3. Ohio—Dennis McGuire, 53 was executed Jan. 21 for the 1989 rape and killing of Joy Stewart, 22. According to witnesses of the execution, McGuire appeared to gasp and snort in the more than 15 minutes it took him to die after being injected with the state’s new lethal injection drugs. McGuire’s two children, who witnessed the execution, have filed a lawsuit against the state, alleging the execution violated McGuire’s constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

4. Mineola, N.Y.—Martin Tankleff settled a wrongful conviction lawsuit against New York state for \$3.4 million. Tankleff spent 17 years in prison after being convicted of killing his parents. In 2007, he was freed when an appeals court found key evidence was ignored in his trial.

5. Sacramento—Prison officials revealed the location of three Level II housing unit facilities, totaling 2,376 new beds. A 792-bed facility is scheduled to be built on state prison property adjacent to Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego. Two 972-bed facilities are scheduled to be built on state prison property adjacent to Mule Creek State Prison in Ione. The estimated construction cost for the Donovan project is \$168.7 million. It will staff about 180 employees at an annual operational budget of \$5.5 million. The Mule Creek estimated construction cost is \$344.5 million and would staff 375 employees with an annual operational cost

News Briefs



of \$11 million.

6. Tehachapi—On December 17, 2013, the first wave of Level II male inmates arrived at the California City Correctional Facility, a private prison leased and operated by CDCR.

7. Fresno—The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved construction of a 300-bed jail at a cost of \$79 million. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

8. Kern County—The state has given Kern County \$27.8 million to help deal with offenders who must do their time locally instead of in state prisons. That’s \$4.3 million more than last year. Kern gets the lowest per-capita from the state to house the shifted offenders at \$6,167 per offender. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

9. Yuba County—From October 2011 to November 2012,

the arrest rate for people arrested within the first year after being released from jail went from 60.3 percent to 46.2. Conviction rate for people convicted of a crime within the first year after being released from jail decreased from 26.1 percent to 18.8 in the same period.

10. Sutter County—From October 2011 to November 2012, the arrest rate for people arrested within the first year after being released from jail went from 59.1 percent to 54.6. The conviction rate for people convicted of a crime within the first year after being released from jail decreased from 23.2 percent to 21.1 in the same period.

11. Contra Costa—Offenders are incarcerated and placed on probation and parole at a rate one-half of the rest of the state. The low rates are attributed to the county’s use of trained probation officers who supervise the offenders. The county also uses shorter probation terms, and prosecutors use split sentences more than any

other county in the state. A split sentence is when a judge divides a sentence between a jail term and supervised probation.

12. San Mateo County—The county is set to receive \$24 million to upgrade its jails. The money is earmarked to improve mental health services and programming, and to increase the jail’s capacity, along with seismic upgrades. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

13. San Joaquin County—The county is set to receive \$33 million to build a higher-security jail to replace the current minimum-security Honor Farm. Officials had asked for \$40 million under their submitted plan, which included more rehabilitation programs. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

14. Boise, Idaho—Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter said because of more than a decade of misman-

aging the state’s largest private prison by Corrections Corporation of America, its \$29 million contract will not be renewed.

15. Lexington, Ky—A college-level course developed in 1997 at Temple University called The Inside-Out Program is teaching a class at Blackburn Correctional Complex. The class consists of 16 students from the University of Kentucky and 16 inmates. The class jointly examines the relationship between drugs and crime. The program was developed on the premise that inmates and college students have a lot to learn from each other when studying together.

16. Boston—The American Civil Liberties Union and Prisoner’s Legal Services are suing the state prison department in an effort to stop the use of drug-sniffing dogs to search prison visitors. The lawsuit alleges that the searches are an invasion of privacy, terrifying for children, and dogs can mistake legal scents for drugs.

17. Columbia, S.C.—In a 45-page ruling, Circuit Judge Michael Baxely gave prison officials until mid-summer to develop a plan on how to better serve mentally ill inmates. Baxely’s ruling cited prison officials’ failure to properly diagnose inmates when they enter the system and medicate them. The ruling also found prisons do not have enough mental health professionals, do not keep records to assure inmates are getting proper treatment and prison guards rely excessively on force instead of other means to control inmate behavior.

18. Massachusetts—A judge’s ability to give a life sentence without parole to juveniles was struck down by the state’s high court. Prison officials said the ruling will affect 62 inmates.

19. Pierre, S.D.—The ability for offenders released on probation to reduce their sentence through good behavior is part of a plan to overhaul the state’s criminal justice system and avoid the need for new prison construction.

Report Indicates North Carolina Forensics Crime Lab Drops the Ball on Following Proper Procedure

‘Potential that information was material and even favorable to the defense was withheld’

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

A North Carolina forensic crime lab was found to have failed to follow proper reporting procedures, according to a state inquiry commission.

A 2012 article by Paul C. Giannelli, in the publication Criminal Justice, highlights a report released by the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission, in which they detail the failures of the crime lab, SBI Forensic Laboratory, in its reporting practices when it comes to criminal cases.

COMMISSION

In 2010, the commission reviewed the case of Gregory Taylor, where blood evidence, and the corresponding crime lab report, was used to obtain a conviction in the original trial. During the course of the inquiry, the commission uncovered the bench notes of the lab technician, Duane Deaver, which showed that the confirmation tests performed indicated the absence of blood in Taylor’s car. However, these notes were not handed over to the defense at the time.

Because of this discovery, according to the 2012 article, North Carolina’s attorney general at the time, appointed two former FBI special agents to investigate SBI’s lab practices, who identified several deficiencies. Those deficiencies included that between 1987-2003, SBI had the “potential that information was material and even favorable to the defense was withheld or misrepresented.”

“A vigilant defense counsel would have quickly discovered that the lab report was based on a preliminary test”

In his article, Giannelli points out that there have been past incidents of crime labs failing to adhere to a strict code of impartiality. Giannelli even cites various studies that show how crime

labs often lose their objectivity, quoting a 1993 study by Andre A. Moenssens that stated crime labs “may be so imbued with a pro-police bias that they are willing to circumvent true scientific investigation methods for the sake of ‘making their point.’”

Giannelli says that defense attorneys and prosecutors have a responsibility in ensuring that such reporting is accurate and properly investigated. “A vigilant defense counsel would have quickly discovered that the lab report was based on a preliminary test,” he says in his paper.

He also quotes the U.S. Supreme Court, which said, “A party whose counsel is unable to provide effective representation is in no better position than one who has no counsel at all.”

Prosecutors are required to provide defense lawyers all notes and information generated from the crime labs, since the U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that such information is exculpatory.

Because of the inquiry commission’s investigation, North Carolina took legislative steps to reform how crime labs op-

erate. This includes making the labs “client” no longer the prosecutors and police, but instead the “public and criminal

justice system” and making it a criminal offense to willfully omit or misrepresent information subject to disclosure.

Study Shows How Trauma Affected Most Pennsylvania Prisoners

By Raymond Aldridge
Journalism Guild Writer

Almost all Pennsylvania state prisoners have experienced traumatic events in their lives, a new study concludes.

Eighty-five percent of the nearly 600 men who participated in the screening reported a wide range of crime-related events in their lives, such as robbery or home invasion, according to researcher Nancy Wolff of Rutgers University in New Jersey. Three-fourths of the men reported they had been physically or sexually abused.

“When I saw the numbers and I saw the prevalence of trauma overall, I was just blown away,” state Corrections Secretary John

Wetzel told WESA, Pittsburgh’s NPR News station. “I couldn’t believe that so many, such a high percentage of our offenders – so I called her up and said, ‘Are you sure about these numbers?’”

He said screening men and providing correct treatment will reduce recidivism.

Wetzel said the state has done a better job of screening women prisoners for trauma.

“With men we haven’t really paid attention to that,” Wetzel added in an October interview. “Now that we have this study, it’s really looking at our trauma programs.”

The research was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Financial Responsibilities Haunt Convicts Reintegrating Back Into Society

‘Some of the collection fees are exorbitant’

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Added financial responsibilities imposed by states’ criminal justice system is making re-entry into society increasingly difficult for many of those who have run afoul of the law, reports the Brennan Center for Justice.

Many states have introduced “user fees” which are not actually connected to any criminal justice purpose, the Center reports.

These fees are not imposed for punishment, deterrence, or rehabilitation, but rather to fund ever-tightening state budgets, according to the report. “Some of the collection fees are exorbitant and exceed ordinary standards of fairness.”

Some states are creating new user fees and raising existing fees, while at the same time, focusing more resources on collections. “One person in Pennsylvania faced \$2,464 in fees alone,” according to the

report. The fees were “approximately three times the amount imposed for fines and restitution.”

In all 15 states examined in the report, many debtor/defendants choose jail time to reduce the debt.

The inability to pay has resulted in 14 of the 15 states in the survey to utilize “poverty penalties” – which add late fees and interest to payment plans that often enrich debt collection companies and extend the debt for years.

“Of the 15 states, 13 also charge poor people public defender fees simply for exercising their constitutional right to counsel,” according to the report. “This practice can push defendants to waive counsel, raising constitutional questions and leading to wrongful convictions, over-incarceration and significant burdens on the operation of courts.”

In 2009, a county in North Carolina arrested 564 individuals and jailed 264 of them for failing to pay debt and up-

date address information, the report showed. However, the monies actually collected from this group were less than what it spent on their incarceration.

“Of the 15 states, 13 also charge poor people public defender fees simply for exercising their constitutional right to counsel”

A person’s reintegration effort after a criminal conviction is hindered by these practices because they damage credit and interfere with other commitments, according to the report. As an example, eight of the 15 states suspend driver’s licenses for missed payments.

“When courts are pressured

to act, in essence, as collection arms of the state, their traditional independence suffers,” the report states. “When probation and parole officers must devote time to fee collection instead of public safety and rehabilitation, they too compromise their roles.”

The report made the following recommendations:

Indigent defendants should be exempt from user fees, and payment plans and other debt collection efforts should be tailored to an individual’s ability to pay.

States should immediately cease arresting and incarcerating individuals for failure to pay criminal justice debt, particularly before a court has made an ability-to-pay determination.

Public defender fees should be eliminated, to reduce pressures that can lead to conviction of the innocent, over-incarceration, and violations of the Constitution.

States should eliminate “poverty penalties” that im-

pose additional costs on individuals who are unable to pay criminal justice debt all at once, such as payment plan fees, late fees, collection fees, and interest.

Policymakers should evaluate the costs of popular debt collection methods such as arrests, incarceration, and driver’s license suspensions – including the salary and time spent by employees involved in collection and the effect of these methods on reentry and recidivism.

Agencies involved in debt collection should extend probation terms or suspend driver’s licenses only in those cases where an individual can afford to repay criminal justice debt but refuses to do so.

Legislatures should eliminate poll taxes that deny individuals the right to vote when they are unable to pay criminal justice debt.

Courts should offer community service programs that build job skills for individuals unable to afford criminal justice debt.

L.A. Times Reports How Legislators Plan to Tackle Solitary Confinement

By San Quentin News Staff

Concern about the effects of solitary confinement on inmates’ mental health prompted two state legislators to take action to reform how inmates are assigned to solitary confinement, reports the Los Angeles

Times.

“The hunger strike made us look at these conditions, but they have been problematic for years,” said Assembly Public Safety Chairman Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco). “We want to start looking at other ways to deal with the security needs in

our prisons in a way that makes sense from a correctional and a human rights standpoint.”

Inspector General Robert Barton, officials from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation advocates for prisoners and their family members spoke at a hearing held in

Sacramento on Oct. 9.

“Since many of these inmates will eventually complete their sentences and be released into the community, it is in all of our interests to offer rehabilitation while they are incarcerated -- not further deterioration,” said Senate Public Safety Chairwoman

Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley).

There are more than 10,000 inmates in some form of isolation, including solitary confinement units for mentally ill prisoners, said a lawyer representing the inmates in the report. Some of those inmates have been there for decades.

Identity and Place Behind the Prison Walls

By **Juan Haines**
Managing Editor

One of the harshest aspects of imprisonment is the loss of physical control, coupled with the loss of identity, according to Sharon Dolovich's *Creating the Permanent Prisoner*. However, identity and place may be more complex for some inmates than others.

Take gender-variant inmates; gender identity is sometimes an issue, which might lead to more distress than what average inmates undergo when taking into consideration the findings of *Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working with Gender-Variant People*.

According to regulations, 12 California prisons – including San Quentin – are designated to house inmates diagnosed as transgender. Nine of the prisons are designated for male-to-female transgenders, the other three for female-to-male.

Newly arrived transgenders at San Quentin say the accommodations are limited, but improving.

An issue resolved was brasieres. Current prison regulations allow bras for transgender inmates. However, bras were not available when they arrived at San Quentin. "It took me six months to get bras in my package," said Seth "Venus" Rountree, 54. "The feel of a real bra on my skin is like the way a child covets a teddy-bear. Wearing it makes me feel comfortable with my body."

Venus is one of about a half-dozen transgender inmates at San Quentin. She said it took the assistance of San Quentin prison staff to get a bra. "I would like to thank Kelly Mitchell, Debbie Pearl, Dr. Tootell, and Sgt. Puu for helping me."

She said she began taking hormone treatments for male to female transformation in 2005. "I wanted to do this when I first came to prison," Venus said. "But I was very uncomfortable with doing it. I was really scared."

Venus is serving 16 years to life for second-degree murder. She said she has been incarcerated 32 years and has had only one rules violation. Venus attends Alcoholics Anonymous, Creative Writing, the Journalism Guild of San Quentin, Addiction to Recovery Counseling and yoga.

Transgender Emergence breaks down gender transformation into "States of Emergence," and suggests various stages for therapists to focus on in gender-variant people.

The first stage, Awareness, recognizes that the person wants to live as the opposite gender.

"Being transgender is someone who was born one gender but identifies as the other," said Crystal Gary, 24. "That's the way they feel inside. That's the way they live their lives, want to be respected, and represented," adding, "Being transgender has nothing to do with sexual preference. A lot of people see transgender human beings as being homosexuals, gay or bi-sexual. It has nothing to do with sex."

Crystal has been at San Quen-

tin for about 18 months. Describing herself as an extravagant songstress and beauty cosmetologist, Crystal has completed a religious study program called



Seth "Venus" Rountree

Boot Camp, and is actively participating in the church. She is also enrolled in school and studying for her GED.

"I think San Quentin is a fabulous place for a person trying to better their lives, especially transgender inmates," Crystal said. "However, the unit where I'm housed has an issue about privacy at shower time, because of a dorm setting it's wide open. Where as in other units the guards will allow us to shower separately," adding, "Even so, it's easier to program here than level four or three prisons. A lot of people who come to San Quentin come to program without worrying about more physical alterations, for the most part."

"Being transgender is someone who was born one gender but identifies as the other"

Transgender Emergence finds the Seeking Information/Reaching Out stage is when the person becomes educated about transgenderism, which leads to Disclosure to Significant Others or "coming out." During these stages, the person is at ease with the concept of changing genders and is willing to speak openly about what they are going through.

Jarvis Juvan "Lady Jae" Clark, 52, said, "As far as being a transgender, I'll only accept respect," adding, "The other day I was in the shower and it was a little crowded. Another inmate was looking at me in a derogatory manner. He said something very disrespectful to me. The old me would have confronted him and tested his manhood. But, the new me, since being at San Quentin, is a kinder, gentler, more demur Jae. 'Yes, I am a faggot,' I said, 'but I am a transgender. Let's get it right.' The young man then dropped his head, and we don't have a problem out of him anymore."

Transgender inmates at San

Quentin say they do not have very many difficulties interacting with other inmates.

"San Quentin has had many obstacles," Lady Jae said. "The first was finding suitable housing. When I first got here, I ran into the stigma of being homosexual. I did not want to intrude onto anyone. I was fortunate to have a couple of very understanding cellies who knew I was put into a compromising position, so they worked with me."

Lady Jae said she is in a relationship, but that her demeanor is not overbearing.

"Some homophobic straight men on a general population yard have a problem with transgenders. They choose to be disrespectful and judge transgenders, gays, homosexuals and bi sexual people," Crystal said. "But I've earned my respect in the prison system, so I don't have that problem. Homophobic people have no understanding of human beings. Or, sometimes they're just on the down-low, undercover men who give the façade of being straight."

Integration is the acceptance and post-transition stage discussed in *Transgender Emergence*. The person seeks normalization in relationships and lifestyle after the transformation process is complete.

"My relationship with Miss Crystal is one of strong sisterhood," said Lady Jae. "Having someone younger than me helps me better my life. I would hope having her as a little sister would also better her life."

Arlene Istar Lev, author of *Transgender Emergence*, suggests that therapeutic assistance helps the person understand the process of transgender transformation so they may live normally.

California's prison system provides mental health services to transgender inmates. However, Lady Jae said, "I think the mental health department misdiagnoses me, because they don't fully understand what I'm going through."

Venus said she became aware of her gender-variance in the 1980s, but did not begin hormone treatment until she came to prison.

"When I was younger, I was a fun-loving person," Venus said. "I was pretty much bi sexual. I feel that I was a regular person growing up, but I had these feminine tendencies. I was also very shy."

At San Quentin, there is an older population of inmates, which translates into a more mature atmosphere.

The inmates "accept me as one of the fellas, although you can see, I'm not just one of the fellas," Lady Jae said. "There's more discrimination from the officers than the inmates."

Lady Jae said, "I see myself as the peacemaker. The one who tries to bring all the transgenders together, in sis-

Criminal Gangs Anonymous, is on the waiting list for prison industries and the prison's college program. Most recently, Lady Jae was elected as the representative to the administration from West Block.

Crystal said she still struggles with joining into regular programs, like fully being accepted in the church as the person she is. "It is a work in progress," Crystal said, "I'm confident we'll be able to work it out."

Federal law now protects transgenders, which according to Masen Davis, executive director of Transgender Law Center, "is especially critical for transgender people who live in



Jarvis Juvan "Lady Jae" Clark and Crystal Gary

terhood. I consider myself the elder spokesperson as I've been around the block."

With 70 plus programs and more than 3,000 community volunteers assisting the inmates with reentry and other prosocial activities, prison officials have touted San Quentin as a model prison.

Lady Jae said she participates in Narcotics Anonymous,

the 34 states that lack transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws."

"We don't even like being identified as transgender. We like being respected, treated and addressed only as females, like miss, she and her," said Crystal. "But, in the end, we're all in prison, doing the time in the same place, as human beings."

San Diego County Jail Teaches Inmates a New Baking Trade

By **Rudy Morales Sr.**
Journalism Guild Writer

One California county is using parts of its jail funding to teach offenders a new trade—how to bake a cake, reports The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The East Mesa Detention Facility in San Diego created an apprenticeship program for culinary arts of bakery.

The project began last January as an outgrowth of the state's plan, shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders from state officials to county governments.

"A lot of us have lost our sense of responsibility," said

one of the program's participants Langston Steven, 36, in the Union-Tribune article. "This gives us a sense of worth."

The Sheriff's Department said the program is intended to help reduce recidivism. "If we don't take advantage of this, it's a wasted opportunity," said Sheriff Bill Gore, in the article.

"This is the first time I'm learning something (while in custody), said Jimmy Bahn, 35 in the Union-Tribune article. "I have choices, an opportunity to learn, and not come back."

Instructor, Maria T. Gonzales teaches all of the funda-

mentals of bakery to a classroom full of students.

"When I came here, I saw them not wanting to work together," Gonzales said. "We've turned it into a team, and that translates on the outside."

Another instructor, Irene Fombon, teaches them "how to fill pastries with cream or drizzle chocolate over a sweet treat. They make icing and decorate cakes, which get gobbled up by jail staff," reports the Union-Tribune.

With the average sentence around 18 to 24 months, inmates are able to take advantage of the course, which is about six-months, reports the Union-Tribune.

Rehabilitation Through the Office of Offender Services, In-Prison Program Unit

By **Rehabilitation Today**
The Office of Offender Ser-
Men (CIM)
• California Institution for Women (CIW)



Photo by CDCR

Inmates in a Career Technical Education Program

ices (OS), In-Prison Programs Unit provides comprehensive rehabilitative programs and services for offenders while in prison, and works closely with Community and Reentry Services to ensure a continuum of care.

Providing gender responsive, evidence-based programs and services to incarcerated offenders are vital components of California's ongoing efforts to assist offenders in their successful reentry into the community. In order to maximize the positive impact of these programs and services, offenders are evaluated for their criminogenic risks and needs to ensure the right individuals are placed in the right programs at the right time.

RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) uses the offender's past criminal history and characteristics such as age and gender to predict the likelihood they will re-offend.

The OS uses an evidence-based instrument, the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS), to assess offender needs and assign them to corresponding rehabilitative programs for maximum effectiveness.

REENTRY HUBS

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has established reentry hubs at designated prisons to concentrate pre-release programs for inmates who are within four (4) years of release and who demonstrate a willingness to maintain appropriate behavior to take advantage of available programming.

REENTRY HUB LOCATION

Reentry Hubs are located at the following institutions:
• Avenal State Prison (ASP)
• California Institution for

- California Men's Colony (CMC)
- California State Prison,



Photo by CDCR

Prisoners and staff working on an engine in a Auto Repair Program class

- Los Angeles County (LAC)
- Correctional Training Facility (CTF)
 - Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)
 - Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)
 - Folsom Women's Facility (FWF)
 - Ironwood State Prison (ISP)
 - Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison (SATF)
 - Valley State Prison (VSP)

REENTRY HUB COMPONENTS

Reentry Hub facilities are comprised of the following components:
• Adult Basic Education - Provides offenders the opportunity for a high school level education;

- Career Technical Education - provides offenders with skills that correspond to the job market;
- Cal ID - provides offenders with a state identification

card prior to release;
• Voluntary Education Program - offers offenders the opportunity to achieve a college education;
• Transition Programs - assisting offenders with job skills required for the modern workforce:

- Transitions Planning
- Job Search
- Job Applications
- Winning Resumes
- The Interview
- One-stop Career Center Orientation
- Financial Literacy

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs:

CBT programs provide evidence-based treatment, which addresses dysfunctional emotions, maladaptive behaviors and cognitive processes; using monitoring and progress



Photo by CDCR

Offender Mentor Certification Program graduate Eric Borchert. Now an Associate Counselor

OFFENDER MENTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (OMCP)

The OMCP provides an opportunity for offenders to complete a certification program in alcohol and other drug counseling. Inmates are recruited from various institutions and transferred to the host institution for training. Once certified as interns by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC), the inmate mentors will be used to assist in the various substance

model program using cognitive behavioral therapy specifically structured for offenders who may not be released in the near future.

STEP-DOWN PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR is implementing a pilot program to reduce long-term confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU), provide alternatives for inmates who want to disassociate from a criminal gang lifestyle, maintain safety in California prisons and communities, and comply with national best practices in addressing Security Threat Groups within California's prisons.

IN-CUSTODY SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR is developing a pilot treatment program to address the risks and needs of offenders who are required to register pursuant to the California Penal Code Section 290. This pilot program will provide evidence based treatment for these offenders prior to their release to corresponding community based treatment programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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assessment to assist offenders in reaching their prescribed goals. Currently available programs include:

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Criminal Thinking
- Anger Management
- Family Relationships

abuse treatment programs throughout the state.

LONG TERM OFFENDER PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR will pilot a reentry



Photo by CDCR

Offender Mentor Certification Program

New Level Omega Chess Arrives at S.Q.

By Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor
Sports Writer

This isn’t “Bobby Fisher’s” chess game anymore. This is Omega Chess! It’s 100 squares instead of 64, 10 pawns instead of eight, Champions and Wizards. In the Advanced Game, there are even pieces called The Fool and the Templar Knight.

The strategy of the game is still the same: checkmate your opponent by capturing the King.

The game is played on a 10x10 squares board with an extra square in each of the extreme corners where the Wizards are placed at the start of each game. On the outer edges where the extra squares are, you’ll find the Champion piece with a Pawn in front.

One reason for adding the new pieces was to equalize the number of jumping pieces with sliding pieces. Wizards are color-bound pieces, a parallel to the Bishop. However, the Wizard is also a leaper.

Champions are, like Knights, classed as leapers. A Cham-

pion can jump two squares in any direction or simply slide one square in any direction.

Daniel MacDonald in Toronto created Omega Chess, which has a small but growing fellowship at San Quentin. Fateem Jackson, Edwin “Zakee” Hutchinson, and James Mays sat down to talk about their experience with the game.

“While I was at California Men’s Colony, I discovered some guys playing it. It immediately drew my attention. I asked one of the guys to teach me how to play,” said Fateem Jackson, 37. Jackson is the first person to introduce Omega Chess at San Quentin. He taught Hutchinson, Mays and Ronald Fort. Jackson has been playing the game for more than two years.

“I’ve been playing chess since I was 11,” said Hutchinson, 53. “Omega Chess is an amazing concept to that (chess) game that I’ve loved all these years. I competed and won the U.S. Chess Federation in Monterey in 1994. I had an expert rating of 1,950. However, this Omega Chess is a completely new beast to

Basketball Shoot-Out Contest Ends Tied

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

San Quentin held a basketball shooting contest for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which was won by Terrell Sterling and Keith Wroten. They both tied for first place by employing a strategy of shooting from the free-throw line and making five each.

They split the first and second place prizes, getting 22 granola bars each.

Anthony Colman and Montrell Vines split third place with 13 bars each. This was Colman’s second time coming in second.

Fateem Jackson won the last event, scoring 37 points on mostly long-range shots made from about three feet behind the three-point line. However, he only scored seven in his title defense, losing to Terrell Sterling and Keith Wroten. They both tied for first place by employing a strategy of shooting from the free-throw line and making five each.

They split the first and second place prizes, getting 22 granola bars each.

Anthony Colman and Montrell Vines split third place with 13 bars each. This was Colman’s second time coming in second.

Alleyne Wins Tennis Singles and Doubles

By Mike Panella
Contributing Writer

Paul Alleyne won both the singles and, with the aid of Mark Jordan, the doubles tennis tournament events held in San Quentin for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Alleyne’s path to the championship match was difficult at best. He faced Young in the first match to play into the round of eight. N. Young forfeited after multiple foot-fault calls, advancing Alleyne.

Alleyne dropped the first set 12-6 to Paul Oliver, but won the match by winning the next two sets. Alleyne beat Lee 2-0 to face Tim Thompson in the final and won in three sets, 12-8, 8-12 and 12-10. Thomp-

son played on a sore ankle but made a match out of it and came in second.

In the doubles, Jordan and Alleyne took first and Rick Hunt and Terry Slaughter took second.

The doubles tournament was much more straightforward. Both finalists rolled through the competition until meeting up in the championship match. Jordan and Alleyne grabbed the lead in the first set and never looked back, winning in straight sets, 21-7, 12-9.

Alleyne’s tenacious net play and fast feet, combined with Jordan’s big serve and heavy ground strokes were too much for Hunt and Slaughter.

Each set was close early on, but opened up at mid-point by several key mini-break points.

SPORTS



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Kinte Hogan faces off against Fateem Jackson in Omega Chess

tackle. I apply the techniques and stratagems that I learned in chess, which makes my Omega game much more diverse and unorthodox.”

“Omega Chess is about expanding the horizons of chess to another level,” said Mays, 56. He’s been playing Omega Chess for 11 months. “Omega Chess is about the diversity of moves that the Champion and the Wizard bring to the game. They leap over other pieces and add a dimension that one

has to take into account.”

Jackson said comparing Omega Chess to regular Chess “is like comparing Spades to Pinochle. Once you play Pinochle, you don’t want to play Spades anymore. Spades is too simple. It’s the same way with Omega Chess.”

“Exactly,” said Hutchinson. “The dynamics of the game are more intricate. It involves critical thinking beyond just an average Chess game. In that, the analogy of Pinochle

to Spades is appropriate.”

Players hope to arrange an Omega Chess Tournament at San Quentin in the future.

Omega Chess is an advanced form of the game that the early Persians learned from the ancient Egyptians. Back then, it was Jackals and Hounds.

Information about Omega Chess can be found at the website http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Omega_Chess&oldid=577631757

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about American prisons and jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:

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Education Dept. / SQ News
San Quentin, CA 94964
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Kings Defeat Bittermen 66-60 in Season Finale

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Kings came back from down 12 to defeat the Bittermen, 66-60, in their final basketball game of the season.

The Kings got back in the game in part by the hot shooting of Aubra-Lamont “Coo-Coo” Moore. Off the bench, he hit four three-pointers for a total of 12 points. “I was open,” Moore explained.

The Bittermen were up 57-56 with just over two minutes left in the game, when S.Q. Kings Oris Williams hit a huge three-pointer, taking the lead, 59-57. He led the Kings with 19 points.

“We were all gung ho to play. We didn’t want to lose this last game”

“The loss was demoralizing. We’ll see those shots by Williams and Moore in our dreams,” said Bittermen’s Mark Stapp, who led his team with 20 points.

After rebounding a Bittermen miss, P. “Strange” Walker scored on the other end for the

Kings, making the score 61-57.

The Bittermen had to foul Williams to stop the clock. Williams hit the first of two free throws and teammate Larry “TY” Jones rebounded the second. Jones put it in, increasing the Kings’ lead to 63-57.

The Bittermen kept intentionally fouling to get back in the game, but fell short, 66-60 in the Nov. 9 contest.

“We were all gung ho to play. We didn’t want to lose this last game, but they wore us down. Brilliant coaching,” said Ted Saltviet about the Kings and their Coach Orlando Harris.

“That was a gritty win,” added Bittermen Tm Hall.



Photo by Rapheale Casale

Timothy Hall pump fakes Timothy Thompson

The Chosen Strikes Back, Offensive Line Leads 32-23 Victory Over All-Madden

By Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor
Sports Writer

The Chosen football squad returned to San Quentin and came away with a win, 32-23.

“I want to thank the offensive line mostly, as well as the entire team,” said Dante Perez, quarterback for The Chosen. “Everybody did their part.”

At halftime, the score was 15-14, with All-Madden leading the way after coming from behind.

In the second half, The Chosen began to take advantage of the All-Madden defense. “We made a couple of adjustments,” said Tyson, who finished the game with nine receptions for

166 yards and two touchdowns. “We saw that the middle linebacker kept leaving the middle of the field open. We wanted to exploit that.”

The Chosen brought a new player with them, Cameron Marshall, a recent graduate of Arizona State University, who also played tailback for the school’s football team.

On The Chosen’s first possession, Perez threw an interception to defensive back Malcolm Jones. All-Madden’s first possession ended with a turnover on downs. On the sixth play of The Chosen’s second possession, they scored first with a 30-yard pass over the middle to Marshall, 6-0.

On All-Madden’s second pos-

session, Royce “Gator” Rose ran up the middle for 21 yards; on the same drive, A. “Alias” Jones scored his first touchdown of the day on a 12-yard sweep right. The score was 7-6.

On The Chosen’s next possession, Marshall received the handoff and exploded up the middle for a 52-yard touchdown. Following a successful two-point conversion, the score was 14-7.

Then on All-Madden’s next possession, Rose found A. Jones streaking up the right sideline and threw a beautifully arced spiral pass for a 62-yard touchdown strike, followed by a two-point conversion.

The Chosen scored on its first possession of the second half as Tyson ran a deep slant from the

left side. As the defense shifted, he waited for the linebacker to slide right, and then adjusted his route to occupy the space vacated by the middle linebacker, Cleo Cloman. It resulted in a 30-yard touchdown pass. The Chosen retook the lead, 20-15.

All-Madden gave the ball back after an eight-play drive that resulted in no points. On the fifth play of The Chosen’s following possession, Perez threw an interception to Rose, who brought his offense back to the field and threw a 22-yard catch and run to Dwight “Sleepy” Kennedy that scored a touchdown. Charles “Pookie” Sylvester converted the two-point play and All Madden retook the lead, 23-20.

After a pass interference call by M. Jones, Perez threw a tight spiral, low and inside, to a sliding Andre Jackson for a three-yard touchdown and The Chosen led again, 26-23. After a quick four and out by All Madden, Perez hit Tyson on a delayed in-route, where he slipped once again behind the middle linebacker. Tyson caught the 40-yard touchdown that sealed the victory for The Chosen, who played their last game of the season.

Final score: 32-23, The Chosen.

“I didn’t do enough,” said A. Jones after the game. “It doesn’t matter what my individual numbers are. We still lost.”

Hopson, 59, Again Captures S.Q. Marathon

It was a cloudless Friday morning, perfect for running, as Lorenzo Hopson ran the 26.2 miles San Quentin Marathon in 3:34:59, three minutes off his record time a year ago.

“I feel good, the body is good,” said Hopson, age 59. “I’ve run 215.4 miles in these Adidas as of today. It’s the first time I’ve run this distance in these shoes,” he said smiling.

The 1,000 Mile Club began at San Quentin in 2005. “I was asked by Laura Bowman to help out, and I’ve been doing it ever since,” said Frank Ruona, coach of the team.

Kevin Rumon set a brisk pace for faster runners, while Laura Richard, a Prison University Project tutor, set a nine-minute pace for average runners. Don Lindsey and Jill Freeman, a former distance runner herself, kept track of runner’s times and handed out fluids. “You have to be able to handle rejection when it comes

to passing out fluids,” she said as some of the runners passed on drinking early. “They’ll feel it later on because they didn’t hydrate early.”

Runners were dropping salt pills and drinking fluids after about an hour of running in the Nov. 15 event. Bill Sullivan, 59, pulled out of the race due to a previous muscle tear in his calf. “I needed more time to heal,” he said. “When you get a little older, the muscles take more time to heal.”

Larry Ford, 57, who trained for a year for the run, pulled a tendon in his right leg in mile 5, and dropped out of the race in mile 7. Ford stayed around to help encourage other runners.

When it came to race day’s marathon, no one could compete with Hopson. “At his age, he is doing excellent,” said Coach Ruona.

—By Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor

MARATHON RESULTS:
1. Lorenzo Hopson 3:34:59
2. Glenn Mason 3:58:42
3. Carlos Ramirez 4:11:51
4. Tone Evans 4:30:34
5. Jerry Gearin 5:06:19
6. Andrew Gazzeny 5:06:49
7. Lee Goins 5:13:33

UNDER 26 MILES FINISHERS:
8. Clifton Williams 3:20 Miles: 20.5
9. M. Abdel Kadeer 2:41:09 Miles: 20
10. Tristan Jones 3:46:47 Miles: 19
11. Chris Schumacher 2:55:14 Miles: 18.5
12. Malcolm Williams 3:20 Miles: 14
13. Larry Ford 1:02 Miles: 7.25

Granola Bar Prizes for S.Q. Tournament Winners

San Quentin gave out granola bars as prizes to winners of the Thanksgiving Holiday Tournaments.

First-place players won up to 20 granola bars, second place 10 and third place got 5-10. The prize winners were:

Tennis: Raphael Calix, first; Ricky Hunt, second; Paul Oliver, third.

Ping Pong: Osbun Walton, first; Bozzie Burton, second; Edwin Maddox, third.

Handball Doubles: Champions were Terrance Banks and Elliott Chattman; Gerald Salas and Bozzie Burton, second; Ventrice Laster and Eric Post, third.

Chess: Champion was Macky Vincent; Eduardo Delapena, second; Kelvin Prince, third.

Pinochle: Champions were Fred Dixon and Lee Habbary; Odell Hodges and Floyd Hall, second; Cole Young and Frank Green, third.

Iron Man Under 50: Champion was Dean Soriano; Perry Simpson, second; Chris Schuhmacher, third.

Iron Man Over 50: Champion was Raphael Calix; Alfonso Sanchez, second; Edwin Maddox, third.

Volleyball: Championship was easily won by Los Tripones, which consisted of Jose Sandoval, Silverio Garcia, Jose Ruacho, Leopoldo Coranies and Jose Serqura; We Sucked members were Mark Jordan, Clarence Godbouldt, Paul Aleyne, Terry Slaughter, Raphael Calix and Eric Curtis, second.

Soccer: Champions were Paisanos Unidos, which consisted of Juan Meza, Chris Marshall, Fortunato Martinez, Marco Villa, Dexton Thetford, Erik Lino; Second place: Abelkader Morceli, Jose Segura, E. Gonzalez, Chancola Rajapasith and Pablo Luna; Third place: Vinh Nyugen, Jesus Sanchez, Miguel Saldana, Tare Bettranchuc, Edgar Salazar and Le Lam.

—By Rahsaan Thomas

Aliaza Football Club Tops Street Kickers, 2-0, Wins Tourney to Select S.Q. Golden Eagles

By Jerry Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

Aliaza Football Club defeated Street Kickers, 2-0, to win the San Quentin soccer tournament held to scout talent for the newly created Golden Eagles.

Golden Eagles is the name chosen for the 21-man team that will represent San Quentin in soccer against all comers.

"The tournament went well. No problems at all," Commissioner Garvin Robinson said after the November contest. "In running the tournament, we got to see who can play what position. Also, we saw that we need to practice. Once we practice, we can learn to play together and learn positions."

The tournament scores wins as three points, draws as one and losses as zero. After six games, Street Kickers led the

league with 13 to Aliaza's 11. Aliaza needed a win to take the tournament.

The first half of the game was a street fight between both teams' goalies. Marco Villa guarded the goal post for Aliaza, while Paul "Irish" Kirwan did so for the Street Kickers. They combined for 23 blocking shots.

Six minutes into the second half, Alianza broke through with a goal by Erik Lino, who was assisted by Coach/Player Alexe "Peru" Ruiz. With 2:52 left to play, Lino kicked another goal, assisted by Lupez Jesus.

"It was a great team effort by both teams. We were the better team today," Ruiz said.

Standouts prospects for the Golden Eagles who emerged from the tournament are:

Defensive players: Villa, Kirwan, Chris Marshall, Dexton Thetford, Juan Meza,



Photo by Raphaela Casale

San Quentin's finest soccer prospects

Garvin Robinson and E. Gonzalez.	Shoe" Ramirez, Jeff Williams and Abelkader Morceli.	Munoz, Jose "Shorty" Vieyra and Lino.
Forwards: Venado "Orange	Mid-fielders: Ruiz, Agustin	Others will be picked later.

St. Mary's College Whips S.Q. Net Team

'It was the most talented team we've faced next to the Bryan Brothers'

By Aaron "Imam Jeddi"
Taylor
Sports Writer

On a cloudless Saturday morning, 12 members of the St. Mary's College tennis team put on a net clinic for San Quentin's best players.

They left undefeated.

"We're a little disappointed that we didn't win. This team is the most talented that we've played next to the Bryan brothers," San Quentin team captain Ronnie Mohammed said.

Chris Schumacher and Rick Hunt faired the best with a

4-3 match; however, the Inside Tennis Team was overmatched in the Nov. 16 competition.

"I was here two years ago," said Jesse Kiuru of Finland. "It's exciting to come back and play some tennis," Kiuru said smiling.

"When they told me I was coming to San Quentin State Prison, I went online to check it out," said Joakim Norstrom of Sweden, laughing. "I admit I was a little nervous. Nevertheless, I just played a game and the nerves eventually settled. It's tennis, no matter the court."

The visitors represented many

parts of the globe: Australia, Egypt, Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, Hawaii, Washington state, and California.

During the games and in between matches, the two teams stood around and talked tennis and techniques. Coach Michael Wayman stood to the side with his arms folded like a proud father.

"I bring them in here to show them about people," said Coach Wayman. He has been coming to San Quentin for several years to play tennis, as well to speak to inmates who are of English

nationality as a representative of the British Embassy. "That any of us could have simply made a left turn instead of right, and ended up here, is entirely real. I also think that it is great that San Quentin has a tennis team," he stated in his crisp British accent.

"It's a great experience," said Sam Bloore of Australia. "I heard about San Quentin back home, and it's my first time coming inside of a prison to play tennis. Definitely a different type of atmosphere," Bloore ranked #8 in the junior's category in Australia before com-

ing to St. Mary's.

"I was really excited about coming in to play," said Seif El'Sherbani. He has been playing tennis for 14 years in his homeland of Egypt. "It's my first time being inside of a prison and I thought it would be a good experience to come and play." Seif played for the Misr Language School in Egypt and is in his second year at St. Mary's.

On this day, the Inside Tennis Team lost every match; however, many of the visitors expressed admiration of the San Quentin team.

Warriors Fall Short in Season Finale To Christian Ministry's Green Team, 90-83

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors fell short to the Christian Ministry's Green Team, 90-83, in the season finale.

Christian Ministry took a 20-point lead in the second quarter, with the score 45-25. The Warriors played with great energy and effort, closing the gap to within five by the fourth quarter, with a minute left. However, with time running out, they had to foul to stop the clock and the Green Team kept the lead and got the win by hitting the free throws.

When his team was down 20 with four minutes left in the second quarter, Warriors Coach Daniel Wright called a timeout. "I can only tell y'all what to do. I can't do it for you. You gotta play some defense," he told his team.

The Warriors responded, causing the Green Team to turn

the ball over 28 times, getting 18 steals and eight blocks. Former overseas 6-foot-8 pro-player Ted Hahs, who scored 29 points in his last appearance, was held to 16 by keeping him out of the paint and Greg Eskridge's blocks.

"Keep a body on Ted; wear him down," Wright told his team pre-game.

"They played tough defense," Hahs complimented afterwards.

Hahs, who played pro in Portugal, returned with David King, Ben Ilegbodu, Mark Ivy, Mike Cussary, Brandon Curtis, and Bill Epling, who couldn't play due to breaking a finger in a game against the Kings on Nov. 2.

The Warriors started strong. Montrell Vines hit two three-pointers back-to-back. Anthony Ammons registered a double-double, with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Rafael Cuevas did well at the point guard spot, logging in nine assists, eight steals

and eight rebounds with only two turnovers.

However, the Warriors offensive was off in the first half. Vines went cold after hitting his first two shots, finishing three for 11 for a total of nine points. Allan McIntosh only hit one out of his first 10 shots, but heated up in the second half, scoring 17 with 11 rebounds.

"We ain't played in awhile. We ain't been practicing," McIntosh explained about his slow start.

The Warriors ended up down 10 at the half, 48-38.

During halftime, both teams circled around center court for the visitors' religious message. Epling told the joke about how God would rather grant a request to build a bridge to Hawaii than grant a wish to explain women.

King called playing against the Warriors "near the top of my list as career highlights -- closest to college ball," since winning a Division 2 title as a sophomore. King gave inspi-

ration encouragement based on Romans 8:38-39. "Nothing we've done can stop God from loving us," King said.

"We appreciate everything that you do—giving up your Saturday mornings, giving us tennis shoes. Y'all are our homies. We can't thank you enough," Wright told Epling.

"The church gave money; don't give me the credit," Epling responded.

After the good-natured halftime moment, the friendly rivalry continued.

King burned Ammons inside for a layup. Ammons responded on the next play by going strong to the rack for the inside layup on King. Franklin, who started, came off the bench after a rest and played hard, ending up with 21 points.

Ivy posted a strange triple-double, with 10 points, 15 rebounds and 10 turnovers. He also had six assists. "Mark, you're not Magic Johnson!"

Ilegbodu yelled from the bench when Ivy got his nine turnovers in the Nov. 16 game.

Vines kept Ilegbodu out of the paint; however, Ilegbodu adjusted his game with outside shooting. Ilegbodu finished with 27 points, including six 3-pointers.

"We matched their intensity and that enabled us to pull out the win," Ilegbodu said. "God gives me the ability to play. This might be my last game for a while 'cause I'm having a baby. I wanted it to be a good one."

King finished with 29 points and 20 rebounds. "I don't know how they let me do that. They took it easy on me today," he humbly joked.

The Warriors finished the season down six games at 10-4 against Christian Ministry. "I look forward to tryouts next year, when I pick the next Warriors team. We'll have a whole new attitude," Wright said.

—Rudy Moralez contributed to this story

San Quentin News

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
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THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

VOL. 2014 NO.4

April 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,955



Photo by Sam Hearn

Sean Webby, Jeff Rosen and Daniel Barton

Santa Clara County D.A. Attends Forum With S.Q. Inmates

Santa Clara County District Attorney, Jeff Rosen paid a visit to San Quentin on Feb. 28 to discuss crime punishment, rehabilitation, and reentry with about two dozen inmates.

"It's not very often that I'm in a room with a lot of guys who've committed serious crimes," Rosen said to the room full of convicted murderers, robbers, and three-strikers.

Rosen took part in the fourth *San Quentin News* Forum, the second where a Bay Area district attorney ventured inside San Quentin to discuss criminal

justice policy with inmates.

"I agree that a lot of people don't know what happens in prison, and I'm one of them," Rosen said. "I didn't give much thought to what happens to defendants after they are convicted."

"Most people don't think about what goes on behind prison walls," added forum participant and criminal defense attorney Dan Barton. Barton said he has known Rosen for a long time and complimented him for implementing "best practices,"

See District Attorney on page 4

New Report Shows 'Little Difference' in Conviction Rate Before and After Realignment

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

More than a year after the implementation of California's Realignment plan (AB 109) to reduce the state's once burgeoning prison population, a new report found little difference between arrest and conviction rates of offenders released before and after

Realignment.

The report by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) said that the one-year return-to-prison rates of offenders were "substantially" lower. This, however, is due in large part to the fact that most offenders from

See Realignment on page 13

Read About Olympic Gold Medalist on Page 19



Photo by Stephen Pascasio

Steve Emrick, Eddie Hart and Frank Rouna

Business Technology Program Hosts Its Third Demo Day

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

There was standing room only in a packed room full of venture capitalists, business leaders, public safety officials, prison administrators, and community members, as

San Quentin inmates took part in their own version of Shark Tank.

On March 14, The Last Mile (TLM) finished its third round, teaching inmates how to create a business plan they can put into practice once they return to their communities.

"We boast a 100 percent employment record," said TLM co-founder Chris Redlitz.

With its catch phrase, "Paving the Road to Success," 10 graduates of the six-month program pitched their ideas

See the Last Mile on page 10



Photo by Sam Hearn

Aly Tamboura pitching his VeriSight Company at The Last Mile Demo Day

Study: Thousands Wrongfully Convicted

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

A minimum of 9,900 innocent people are wrongfully convicted each year, according to a study by Ohio State University. The study used information from almost 200 judges, prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, police, plus the state attorneys general of 41 states.

Reasons for wrongful convictions include perjury, negligence by prosecution, coerced confessions, "frame ups" and overzealousness. One of the biggest fac-

tors for wrongful convictions are mistaken eyewitness identification, said the report published in *Forensic Magazine* and included in a new book. Susan Myster, Ph.D., and Michael Cromett, Ph.D. authored the magazine article.

"Our research has convinced us that unethical conduct in the United States has not, in general, received appropriate attention, nor has it been adequately punished," said author C. Ronald Huff.

These findings are included in Huff's new book, *Convicted But*

Innocent: Wrongful Conviction and Public Policy (Sage Publications, 1996). Huff is director of the Criminal Justice Research Center and the School of Public Policy and Management at Ohio State University.

A number of organizations, usually called Innocence Projects, are working to free wrongfully convicted inmates. There are so many wrongfully convicted persons in the United States, most organizations working on exoneration of those wrongful convictions, only work on DNA based cases. In other words, easily proved cases. Very few innocence projects entertain non-DNA based cases. However, the very same methods used to convict are now being used to exonerate.

Eyewitness identification has

Federal Court Rules Two Parole Laws 'Unconstitutional'

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal court has ruled that two California parole laws are unconstitutional.

Proposition 89, amended the state's constitution in 1988 and gave the governor the authority to review parole board decisions on inmates convicted of murder.

The court ruled that Proposition 89 was intended "to give the Governor 'the power to block the parole of convicted murderers.'"

According to court records, from 1991 to 2010 California governors reversed more than 70 percent of the thousands of parole grants" by the parole board.

From 1991 to 2011, all previous governors reviewed only

See Federal Court on page 7

See Thousands on page 14



Sat May 3, 2014 • Tiburon, CA

On Saturday, May 3 from 1 — 4:30 pm, Seven Sister Mystery School will be holding a Healing Ceremony on behalf of inmates and staff. San Francisco Bay Area people will hold the ceremony on the side of Ring Mountain in Tiburon, overlooking San Quentin. For at least 15 minutes, everyone is invited to reflect on what they would like healing in their life. The event will also double as a fundraiser to help expand San Quentin News to reach all California inmates.

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We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. **Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964.** To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed. The following groups and individuals have already made contributions:

FOUNDATIONS

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BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

Historian Jeff Craemer Educates Visitors About the History of S.Q.

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

San Quentin historian Jeff Craemer grew up in Marin County, looking at San Quentin in the distance.

As a young boy, Craemer watched some of the historic cellblocks being torn down to make way for a new building named the Adjustment Center — a building that would later be the setting of a bloody scene in 1971 — when George Jackson attempted to escape. That day three officers lost their lives, along with two prisoners.

Craemer worked for the *Marin Independent Journal* at the time of this bloody incident. An incident he remembers well, though not as well as one of his friends, Lt. Richard W. Nelson, who later became an Associate Warden.

“Dick used to turn gray when he told the story about the Jackson incident,” Craemer recalls.

Nelson had to rush to the armory that bloody day. Later he would retell the story as one of San Quentin Museum’s found-

cell from the prison at the museum.

One of the strangest objects in the museum is a noose. Craemer tells the story of Rattlesnake James, the last man hanged at San Quentin in the 1930s. The noose in the museum was the same one used to hang Rattlesnake James.

According to historical records, James attempted to kill one of his wives by sticking her foot in a box with a rattlesnake.

She was bit, but when she did not die quickly enough, he decided to drown her instead, thus earning him a nickname and a death sentence. James was the last person sentenced in California to hang to death in a time when the gas chamber was already in use.

The gas chamber is another story altogether. A man named Robert Wells help build the gas chamber in 1938 during a brief stint in San Quentin from 1938 to 1941. Once Wells returned to society, he killed his brother, sister-in-law and her friend because they broke up an incestuous relationship between him and his half-sister. Wells ended up being executed in the very gas chamber he helped build.

These are just a few of the stories Craemer tell museum-visitors.

The museum has gone through some rough times in the past, but in the last two years, Craemer has kept regular hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Craemer gets many requests for records from people tracing their genealogy.

“People want to know about their crazy Uncle Jack that may have done time here, or one of their relatives that worked here in the past,” he said. This keeps Craemer busy digging through old prison archives.

During one of these searches, he came across the name Hennery Plummer. The name sounded familiar to him, and from the two pages of prison records he started with, he ended up accumulating a stack



Jeff Craemer in front of San Quentin

of papers two to three inches thick.

Plummer was a Sheriff in Nevada City in the late 1800s and ended up being convicted of the murder of a rival. During his incarceration in San Quentin, he contracted tuberculosis and received a medical pardon. Later, Plummer ended up in Montana and landed a job as a marshal.

“They must not have done background checks back then,” says Craemer, with a chuckle.

One can tell that Craemer has an affinity for history.

While working at the *Marin Independent Journal* on August 7, 1970, Craemer witnessed what would later be known as the Marin County courthouse incident. Jonathan Jackson, attempting to free his brother George, took over a courtroom in Marin County.

Jonathan smuggled three guns that belonged to Angela Davis, a former UCLA professor and political activist, into the courtroom during the trial of San Quentin inmate James McClain. McClain was on trial for the stabbing of a prison guard while serving a sentence for burglary.

Jonathan and his confederates demanded safe passage from the courtroom to a rented Ford panel truck that was waiting to take them to freedom. To ensure this safe passage, they taped a shotgun around the neck of Judge Harold Haley.

A shootout ensued, leaving four men dead, including Jonathan and Judge Haley.

“I remember being in the newsroom that day, and seeing two of our photographers rush out to cover the story,” said Craemer.

One of the photographers was Jim Kean, a lifelong friend of Judge Haley. Kean watched his friend lose his life that day. When Kean returned to the newsroom to develop the film that would later be plastered across papers nationwide, Craemer watched him cry.

That day remains sharply in focus in Craemer’s mind to this day. “It is a moment that will forever be in his mind,” says Craemer. Through links like this, Craemer has himself become a part of San Quentin’s history.



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

The noose that hung “Rattlesnake James”

ers, establishing the San Quentin Museum with Craemer in 1993.

Many of the objects in the museum came from former employees and their families, as well as from inside the walls of San Quentin.

“As soon as the word spread, donations came flooding in,” said Craemer.

The museum house displays of firearms used in the prison over the years, including the one Nelson used in the Jackson incident. Some of the contributions the prison made during World War II are also displayed. There is even a model



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Firearms on display inside the S.Q. museum

Death Penalty Appeals Occupy One-third Of California Supreme Court Cases

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Death penalty appeals make up one-third of California Supreme Court’s caseload.

According to a 2013 report by Paula Mitchell for Verdict Justia.com, “the backlog at the Supreme Court is now so severe that it is taking almost 20 years for the court to decide direct appeals in death penalty cases.”

HABEAS CORPUS

“Death Row inmates begin their state and federal habeas

corpus proceedings, for which they are also provided publicly funded counsel, and which typically drag on for at least another 10 years,” according to the report.

LETHAL INJECTION

Despite this caseload, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye “does not expect executions in California to resume for at least three years because of problems with the lethal injection process.”

Cantil-Sakauye explained, “The one-drug protocol has to comply with California’s

Administrative Procedures Act, and the switch will delay the potential resumption of death penalty executions in California for possibly several years.”

“In July 2013,” the report said, “Gov. Brown announced that the state would switch from a three-drug lethal injection protocol to a one-drug sodium thiopental protocol for lethal injection, already in use in other states.” The one drug is already in very short supply.

Earlier in 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

District of Columbia told the FDA that sodium thiopental was not an approved drug. It was not to be imported and administered for executions.

SAN QUENTIN

San Quentin State Prison currently has more than 725 inmates on Death Row.

Nineteen inmates have arrived at on S.Q. Death Row since voters opposed Proposition 34 to eliminate the death penalty last November.

According to the report, “majority of defendants are people of color. Fifteen of the

19 are Hispanics and four are African-American.” Thirteen of the nineteen death sentences were imposed in Los Angeles (7) and Riverside (6).

The National Registry of Exoneration, a joint project launched by Michigan and Northwestern Law Schools, “revealed that California ranks first in the nation in the number of wrongful convictions.”

Last November the United Nations General Assembly voted 110 to 39 in favor of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Capital Punishment Losing Ground in Public Support

California Had 24 New Death Sentences, While Florida Had 15

Last year, public support for capital punishment was at its lowest level in 40 years, according to a survey conducted by Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC).

The Death Penalty in 2013: Year End Report had several key findings: There were 39 executions in nine states; there were 80 death sentences in 2013; Maryland abolished the death penalty in 2013, the sixth state to do so in six years.

Executions dropped from 43 in 2012 to 39 in 2013. Texas carried out 16 executions. Florida carried out seven ex-

ecutions.

California had 24 new death sentences, while Florida had 15. Texas had nine. Alabama had five, Ohio had four, Pennsylvania had four, Arizona had three, Indiana had three, and Missouri had three. Fifteen states imposed at least one death sentence in 2013, compared to 18 in 2012. South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Louisiana had no new death sentences.

As of April 1, 2013, there were 3,108 inmates on death rows in the U.S., compared to 3,170 at the same time last year.

The total number of inmates on Death Row has decreased every year since 2001. In 2000, there were 3,670 inmates sentenced to death in the U.S.

The report found a notable factor causing the death penalty to lose public support is the ongoing problem states have in finding a consistent means of carrying out executions.

The problems of mistakes, unfairness, and even the method of execution have exasperated many supporters of the death penalty, contributing to less reliance on capital punishment, reports DPIC.

In 2013, 82 percent of the executions were carried out in the South, a percentage that has remained steady since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

Only two percent of counties in the U.S. have evoked the majority of cases leading to executions since 1976, according to DPIC. Likewise, only two percent of the counties are responsible for the majority of today’s Death Row population and recent death sentences, the report shows.

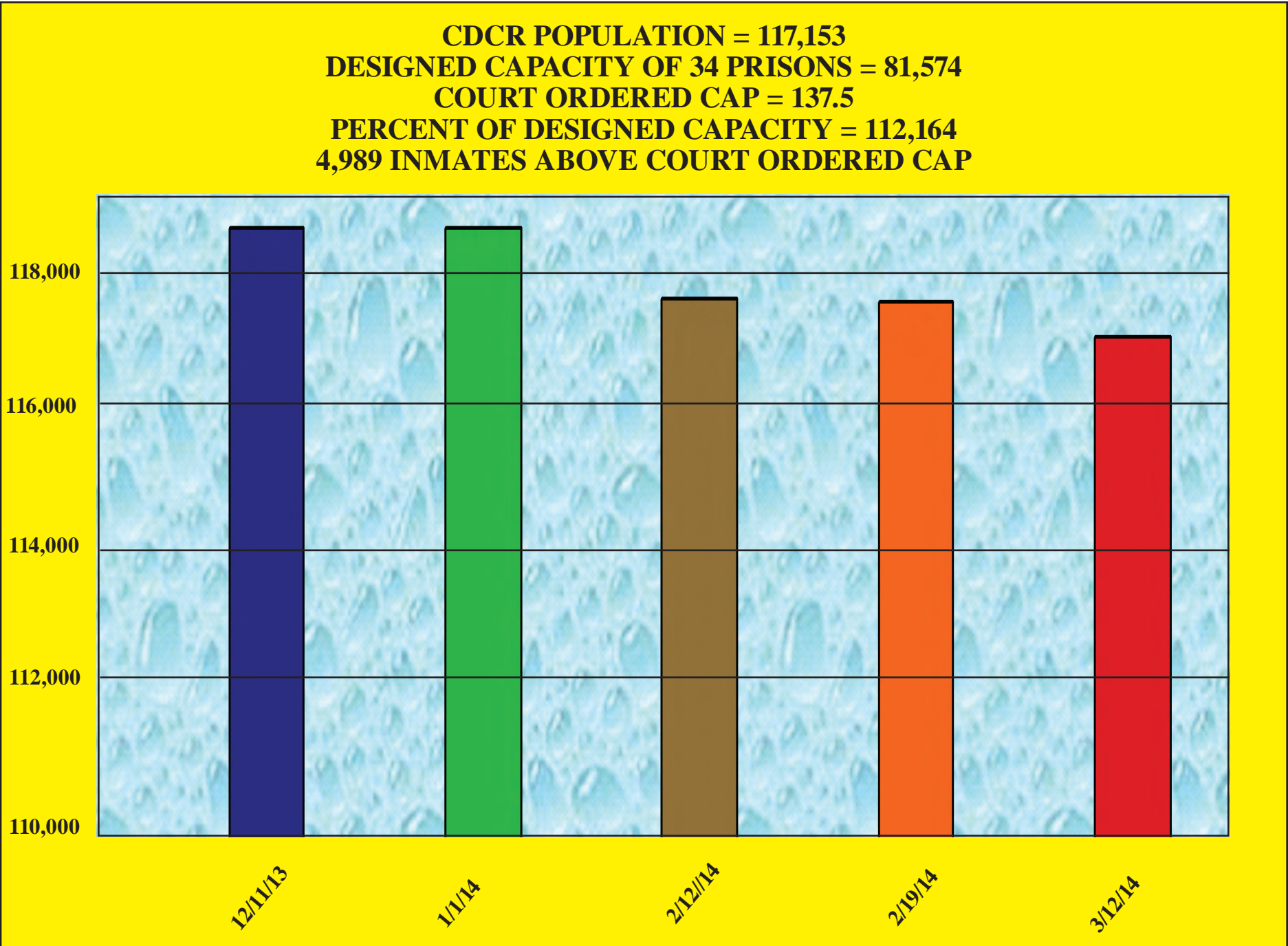
Eighty-five percent of the counties in the U.S. have not had a single case resulting in

an execution in more than 45 years, according to DPIC.

The Death Penalty Information Center is a non-profit organization serving the media and the public with information and analysis on capital punishment.

The DPIC provides in-depth reports, conducts briefings for journalists, promotes informed discussions, and serves as a resource to those working on this issue. Richard Dieter is executive director of DPIC. dpic@deathpenaltyinfo.org www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

—By Juan Haines



District Attorney Jeff Rosen Talks About Criminal Justice Policies

Continued from Page 1

in areas of criminal justice.

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo Garcia said the news forums exist so that prisoners and public safety officials could interact and exchange ideas about some of the toughest problems related to incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry.

The meeting began with the inmates introducing themselves to Rosen, Webby and Barton by stating their crime, sentence, and county in which they were convicted.

Rosen told the inmates, "I'm

Into Power, and The Last Mile, a program that teaches inmates how to turn socially responsible ideas into a business model. "We're all trying to find ways to give back. These programs help me," said Heredia who has been incarcerated for 16 years.

"For me No More Tears and the community-based group Healing Circle gave me the opportunity to meet Paulette Brown," said Samuel Hearn, 36, of Fresno County. "She told the story of her son and his murder. She did this and broke down in tears. When I saw that, it helped me take accountability



Photo by Sam Hearn

Jerry Smith and Jeff Rosen
listens to other inmate's opinions

here because Dan gave me a copy of the paper. I was quite struck at the quality of it."

Rosen invited the inmates to give their opinion on what prison programs are most effective for rehabilitating offenders.

"Some of the programs that have helped me are Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous; they show you the culture of what appeals to us in that cycle of violence," said Miguel Quezada, 32. Quezada is in his 16th year of a 45 year-to-life sentence for second-degree murder.

"It's a community thing, and at this end we receive programs, but it has to start at the beginning," Quezada said. "It took me about 15 years to get to San Quentin and get involved in these programs. Education is also important in prison. We have Patten University here and a few others. But, I think there's a gap for inmates who want to gain a higher education."

Jorge Heredia, 39, sentenced to 13 years, plus life for first-degree attempted murder talked about several programs he's taken. Heredia enrolled in PUP. He is also involved in Victims Offender Education Group, San Quentin Inmate Resources Education Studies, Guiding Rage

for what I had done. Many of us look beyond the prison system because we want to help. The community is as much ours as it is yours." Hearn was convicted of second-degree murder in 1997.

"The groups help you understand responsibility and accept your role," said Vaughn Miles, 40, chairman of The Richmond Project. The Richmond Project was created to help stop the cycle of violence and incarceration by re-connecting to youth. Inmates from the city of Richmond make up the self-help group.

"What makes it easy is that you see fellow inmates doing positive things. Many times, inmates see other inmates who used to be involved in a negative lifestyle change into someone living a positive lifestyle—witnessing the results of change is very powerful." In 1995, Miles was convicted of first-degree murder in Alameda County.

"These programs teach us that we can and should take responsibility," said David Basile, who has recently been found suitable for parole after serving more than 30 years behind bars for murder. "I was a racist. I only realized the magnitude



Photo by Sam Hearn

Jeff Rosen, Lee Jaspar and Billy Allen having a conversation after the forum

of my faulty belief system after taking American Government offered by Patten University. During that class, I noticed how I had limited myself through buying into lies and misrepresentations about my fellow man. It was then when I began to develop tremendous empathy for the black man's plight and the shame I had to deal with for my previous actions and behavior toward the black man." Basile is scheduled to be released sometime in May.

"I'm not sure how long race has been an issue," said Walter Spracka, 54. In 1995, Spracka was convicted of residential burglary and is serving a sentence of 37 years to life under the Three-Strike Law.

"But it's taken many decades to get where we are today. It's (race) a real sensitive issue with the prison system because it deals with all sorts of dynamics."

"It's more relaxed in San Quentin," said Emile DeWeaver, 34, of Alameda County. "But the race issue still exists here." DeWeaver is serving a sentence of 67 years to life for murder. He has been imprisoned since 1998.

"I like that you talk about people who want to give back to the community," Rosen told the inmates.

Rosen said that after working

in the D.A.'s office for 15 years, he became dissatisfied with how it was operating. He said the office lost some of its credibility and accountability when his predecessors ended the Innocence Project.

He decided to seek office, campaigning to bring credibility and accountability back to the district attorney's office.

In addition, he said he also wants to make minor changes in the Three Strikes Law. "I met with the folks from Stanford and listened to them. The changes they proposed were pretty reasonable," he said, adding, "If a person commits the same crime, they should receive the same time. One of the things important in the criminal justice system is to have consistency. These laws affect you all. I don't believe in throwing lives away," he told the inmates.

He was elected to office in 2010.

Rosen then created the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU). He said the CIU examines practices in the D.A.'s office and police departments with the intent to "vigorously pursue justice."

Regarding Santa Clara County reentry services, Rosen said, "I'm lucky I work in a county that devotes resources to reentry," adding, "We have a resource re-entry center. It's about 500 yards from the district attorney's office. It's a one-stop place for classes, training and how to get medical services."

ney's office. It's a one-stop place for classes, training and how to get medical services."

Aly Tamboura, who is coming to the end of his sentence, said he wanted to give back to his community by talking to people about taking the right path in life.

"On the one hand, I think it's helpful for you to talk with high school students. On the other hand, I want to be careful that we don't glorify things," Rosen told Tamboura. "I think a better audience for you might be other inmates or kids who are already going down that path, perhaps juveniles. I believe in second chances and change."

Sean Webby, Rosen's Public Communications Officer, once a reporter for the San Jose Mercury News and The Gazette in New York City, said, "I'm proud to be a journalist," then turning to San Quentin News reporters, "I'm proud to be sitting here amongst you. We're a brotherhood. You get into journalism to get to the truth."

Rosen grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from University of California, Los Angeles.

He said criminal law interested him the most, and he wanted to help victims of crime, which drew him to the Santa Clara District Attorney's office in 1995.

—By Juan Haines



Photo by Sam Hearn

Sean Webby, Jeff Rosen, Arnulfo Garcia and
Daniel Barton on San Quentin's Lower Yard

ROOTS Celebrates Reconnecting Cultural Heritage

No History; No Self. Know History; Know Self

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The San Quentin self-help group that puts emphasis on reconnecting to one's cultural heritage held a graduation for more than 40 people that included 30 inmates and about a dozen Bay Area community members.

The guiding principle of ROOTS (Restoring Our Original True Selves) "No History; No Self. Know History; Know Self" is "to develop self-awareness and understanding how to be a productive member of one's community," said Chairman Phoeun You.

"The philosophy of ROOTS is a collaborative effort between inmates and all the other co-facilitators of the program," You said.

"We all have a shared experience," said facilitator Simranjit Kaur. "We go home and want to share what we learned from this class," she added, "We always remain eternal

optimists. There's a little bit of us in you."

The six-month course provides education about Asian/Pacific Islander and other minority communities in order to build awareness, empathy, and understanding of the struggles faced by all people and promote giving back to one's community in productive ways.

"We always remain eternal optimists. There's a little bit of us in you"

ROOTS workshops include anger management, acceptance of responsibility for one's crimes and re-entry to the community.

Elijah Fejeran, 27, has been

at San Quentin for more than two years. He said, "This is the best prison. There are a lot of programs." As each person arrived at the graduation, Fejeran handed him or her wristbands as a tribute. Fejeran said he expects to return to Sacramento after being paroled in 2018.

Before the event, each person struck a drum set center-stage in honor of Molly Kitajima, who recently passed away.

The graduation began with Kasi Chakravartula and Vera Leo beating drums to the rhythmic sounds of Peter Yung playing a Japanese handmade bamboo windpipe. The three performed for the community members and inmates who joined the drumming with handclaps and chants. After the performance, Yung gave a lecture about the origin of the instruments.

Facilitator Kasi Chakravartula addressed the audience and talked about the connec-

tion between Japanese internment camps during World War II and mass incarceration. She said she wanted to incorporate the Filipino and Pacific Island experiences into the ROOTS program.

"We cannot do this without all the help from the volunteers," said keynote speaker Eddy Zheng. "But more importantly, we cannot do it without the brothers who are locked up. Be proud, be brave, be empowered, because you are beautiful; be a change from within."

Zheng paroled from San Quentin after serving a total of 21 years behind bars. "We are encouraged by your presence," he told the graduates.

Sikhs, Simranjit Kaur and Winty Singh talked about the connection with their community and relationships to the tenets of ROOTS.

San Quentin conducts an annual Health Fair on its Lower Yard where Bay Area health-related organizations provide

on-the-spot services for the inmates. At the fair, ROOTS facilitator Ben Wang staffed a station called the Asian-Pacific Support Committee.

David Lee gave a powerful speech about the importance of each person taking responsibility for his actions and doing all he could do in making a difference in the world.

Facilitator Roger Chung and inmates Nghiep "Ke" Lam and Pangthong Anouthinh were asked to do something entertaining for the audience. The three went out of the room to brainstorm. When they came back, they performed a dance-off to beating drums. The audience clapped and laughed for about five minutes at the robot, break dancing, mixture of modern dance and an old-school kick-worm performance.

The event closed with the Hawaiian Cultural Group performing a Polynesian dance that received cheers as the audience joined with clapping.

Dozens of Inmates Graduate From S.Q.'s Diabetic Class

On March 3, more than a dozen inmates graduated from San Quentin's Diabetic Class. The 10-week course focuses on the effects of diabetes on the body with a goal of improving the health of participants.

"We have a lot of people who don't know how to manage the disease," said Sonia Spindt, project coordinator. "So, about a year and a half ago Dr. Elaina Tootell approached Clinton to create a diabetic management program to educate the men."

Inmate Clinton Martin was instrumental in creating the diabetic class after he and Dr. Tootell talked about the idea at a fundraiser last year.

"I find that inmates get a lot out of these classes," said Dr. Tootell, the prison's chief medical officer. "Having a peer-taught class is very effective for teaching inmates."

The course teaches inmates about the nutritional aspects of foods; how to read food labels; why keeping a food log is important; monitoring blood

sugar levels; meditation and breathing; exercise and fitness; how diabetes affect nerves; and health care maintenance.

In addition, a five-week advanced class delves into heart disease, foot and eye care, with aftercare services.

"I went to diabetic classes at Kaiser, but I didn't take the classes too seriously," said Ralph Ligons, 62. Ligons said he has been a diabetic for 20 years.

"When I got in Dr. Tootell's class, I found out how serious the disease is. Since being in her class, I lost about 35 pounds in the last year just by following the instructions."

Ligons said the material is easy to understand and instructions are not complicated.

"Reading, understanding and doing the things recommended in the material will extend my life," he said. "I learned how bad smoking and drinking is. Smoking clogs the arteries, which leads to amputations, and alcohol turns directly into sugar, which is very bad for diabetics."

I'm glad that the administration supports this program."

Darrell "Waylo" Williams, 52, said he was diagnosed with diabetes in 1992 while in Solano County Jail. His symptoms were frequent urination and constant thirstiness.

"One night I was watching TV and my vision got really blurry. The next day I went to sick-call and found out I had it."

Williams said in 2011 his blood sugar levels were high because he was stressing about family matters. "I joined Dr. Tootell's class in 2012 and learned about the disease," he said. "The class taught me a lot about how to prolong my life by paying attention to food intake. But, since there's no special diet here, I had to learn what to eat and what not to eat. I learned the importance of eating a lot of vegetables and more fish and chicken."

Williams recommends for everybody to take the class, even if they don't have diabetes. He said if someone in their family has the disease, the valuable in-



Photo by Sam Hearn

James Hunt congratulated by Mike Pedersen

formation they learn in the class could be passed to them.

"We find that the participants eagerly take in the information because they want to return to their families healthy," said Dr. Tootell. "The men take monitoring their blood sugar level very seriously. I never heard men so excited about their blood sugar."

Dr. Tootell said with more

than 200 men on the waiting list for the class. She would also like to modify the class size and cycle so that more men could be accommodated. She said under a normal clinical setting there is never enough time to fully explain all aspects of the disease. However, San Quentin's two-hour, 10-week introduction class and five-week advanced class gives participants a lot of valuable information about diabetes.

The program has five permanent facilitators. Guest speakers are invited to lecture on different topics where expert knowledge is needed, like meditation, retinopathy (eye damage), and heart disease.

Medical is working on getting glucose meters to check blood levels.

"Getting the men better shoes would help them tremendously," said Kim Bailey, who is a course facilitator. "Also, giving the men diabetic diets would improve their lives."

The program facilitators say they are seeking to give diabetics identification bracelets so that during a medical emergency first responders could identify them as diabetics.

"We hope to expand into other diseases like valley fever and cancer," Spindt said.

—By Juan Haines



Photo by Sam Hearn

The diabetic graduates, guest and staff in the Protestant Chapel

EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

Letters, letters, and more letters! First and foremost, I want to thank you for your interest in San Quentin News. I want you to know your voices are being heard.

The volume of letters we receive is large, and growing. I try to read as many as I can. Yet, due to the number of letters with thoughts and ideas of interest to SQN, we are not able to respond to each one individually. I feel badly about not being able to write back to each of you personally.

You diligently bring our attention to your concerns, thoughts, ideas and needs. We at San Quentin News, appreciate your input, and I personally thank you. To address the needs of our readers, we are thinking of new ways to respond—especially to those

letters on issues such as medical care, prison programs, cell status, or custody matters. We don't have the resources to be a legal commentator. However, we regularly have writers researching and covering legal issues. We hope to address and give attention to your thoughts.

While our staff is growing, we are constantly working on the next issue, new stories, new ideas, and trying to manage the great volume of mail. I hope you understand.

We have readers scattered in prisons across the United States and some overseas. Additionally, we have some readers in all 33 other California prisons. Though our objective is to provide each California prisoner a copy of the newspaper, we are a long way from that goal. Many of you have individually subscribed because you are unable to secure

the paper at your prison. We thank you.

Despite the difficulties, we wish to grow the paper to meet the needs of our growing audience. Although the state says the prison population is decreasing, "our" readership is increasing.

So, I want you to know that your letters are not just sitting in some corner gathering dust. We do read them, but our space to print them is limited. For myself, I remember sitting in another prison that had no programs, wishing that someone could respond to my needs. Here, we are striving to do better, so please bear with us. We will do our best to address your concerns.

Recently we received an e-mail telling us that our little paper had won the prestigious James Madison Freedom Of Information Award for excellence in journalism given by



Photo by Sam Hearn

Arnulfo Garcia

the Society of Professional Journalists. We are very honored and proud to be recipients of this award. This achievement motivates us to continue this work for our community. You are our community. We are striving to be there for you.

The department of corrections does not fund the

printing and distribution of the newspaper, therefore San Quentin News depends on donations to operate. Tell your family and friends they can subscribe at our web site as listed in the paper.

For those of you who are requesting yearly subscriptions, the new price is going to be \$25 for prisoners and \$40 for outside subscribers.

In closing, I would like to remind you that our mail goes through the same inmate mail system that you deal with. Like all prison mailrooms, the process can take weeks at times, and there is no getting around it. We hope to create an expedited process in the future, but for now, just be aware that it may be several weeks before we actually read your letters.

Finally, again, I would like to thank you for communicating your thoughts. Keep the letters coming.

Extensión Sobre Limite de Restringimiento

Traducción: Jorge Heredia
Por Juan Haines
Gerente Editorial

This story was printed in our Feb.-Mar. 2014 issue titled 'Two-Year Extension To Meet Prison Cap.'

En Febrero 10, una corte federal le otorgo al Gov. Jerry Brown una extensión de dos años para reducir el limite de reclusos en las prisiones del estado.

La orden viene después de que la Corte Suprema de los EE.UU. en Mayo 2011, dictaminó que Brown debe restringir el Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) al 137.5 por ciento de su capacidad diseñada, lo cual permitirá a los reclusos recibir cuidado medico adecuado.

"Una prisión que priva a reclusos del sustento básico, incluyendo cuidado medico adecuado, es incompatible con el concepto de la dignidad humana y no tiene lugar en la sociedad civilizada," escribió el Juez Anthony Kennedy en la decisión mayoritaria 5-4.

Desde el 2011, CDCR hizo varios intentos fallidos para alcanzar el límite de población, incluyendo la construcción del California Health Care Facility (CHCF).

CHCF añadió 1,818 camas al sistema de prisiones del estado y aumento el número de prisiones del estado bajo escrutinio a 34. Sin embargo, documentos de la corte reflejan que la "activación planeada ase mucho" del CHCF ha sido dilatada porque el estado no puede encontrar suficientes psiquiatras para proveer el personal de las instalaciones.

El año pasado, las prisiones de California albergaron 33,777 reclusos con enfermedades mentales comprobables, apenas 30 por ciento de la población total, con 6,051 de estos sufriendo de graves desordenes de esquizofrenia, según un re-

porte del Sacramento Bee.

Abogados por parte de los reclusos objetaron a la extensión de dos-años, diciendo el tiempo extra someterá a los reclusos a "pésimas condiciones institucionales," y señalaron que el deber principal de la corte es "eliminar las violaciones constitucionales... en la forma más rápida posible consistente con... la seguridad publica."

Como ejemplos de pésimas condiciones, expertos de la corte encontraron que una prisión para mujeres estaba operando al 178.5 por ciento arriba de su capacidad, y sin proveer cuidado medico adecuado. El resultado creó morbilidad y mortandad prevenible con serios riesgos de daño en desarrollo a pacientes prisioneras. La mayoría de los problemas fueron atribuidos a la sobrepoblación, insuficiencia de personal del cuidado medico e inadecuado espacio de camas medicas, los expertos concluyeron.

Los expertos examinaron otras nueve prisiones, y ellos dijeron ninguna proveyó cuidado medico adecuado.

Los abogados de los reclusos dicen que prisioneros con enfermedad mental "continúan sufriendo los devastadores efectos de la sobrepoblación en curso... [y] mueren en índices asombrosos como una consecuencia de la falla [del estado] para proveer tratamiento mínimo del cuidado mental adecuado y condiciones de encarcelamiento."

La orden de Febrero, 10 creó un plazo fijo que Brown tiene que obtener al alcanzar el límite de población de reclusos en un 137.5 por ciento de la capacidad diseñada. Además, la corte asigno un Oficial de Conformidad con autorización para seleccionar reclusos calificados para ser liberados si las 34 prisiones del estado exceden el presente límite de población.

El primer limite de población de 116,651 reclusos o 143 por

ciento de la capacidad diseñada debe ser cumplido para Junio 30.

Números del CDCR reflejan que en Febrero 12, la población de reclusos estaba a 117,682, o 144.3 por ciento de la capacidad diseñada – 1,031 prisioneros más del límite.

Para Febrero 28 del próximo año, la población de reclusos del CDCR no puede exceder 141.5 por ciento de la capacidad diseñada o 115,427 prisioneros.

Para Febrero 28, 2016, la población de reclusos del CDCR no puede exceder 137.5 por ciento de la capacidad diseñada o 112,164 prisioneros.

La orden de la corte notifico al CDCR que si la población de prisioneros excede cualquier de los niveles presentes arriba mencionados, 30 días de allí en adelante, el Oficial Conformidad seleccionara prisioneros que califiquen para ser liberados.

El de Oficial Conformidad debe de "tener acceso a toda información necesaria del CDCR y personal concerniente a la población de las prisiones de California, incluyendo proyecciones de la población." EL expediente Central del prisionero, asesoramiento de riesgo, datos de reincidencia, y datos estadísticos serán usados para encontrar reclusos que califiquen.

Para Abril 11, CDCR le dará al Oficial de Conformidad bajo autenticidad, la categoría de prisioneros quienes son menos propensos a reincidir o quienes puedan de otra manera ser candidatos para ser liberados antes de tiempo cumplido a través de la Lista de Bajo Riesgo. Una lista enmendada debe ser actualizada cada 60 días. Además, la corte ordena a Brown "desarrollar comprensible y sustentable reformas de reducción-poblacional y [el] considerar el establecimiento de una comisión para recomendar reformas del estado penal y leyes de sentencia."

La orden excluye la liberación

de prisioneros condenados a muerte o prisioneros purgando una condena de vida sin posibilidad de libertad condicional.

La administración de Brown dice el estado esta renovando las prisiones con "nuevas medidas de reforma para responsablemente disminuir la población de la prisión mientras que evitando la liberación de prisioneros." Las sentencias de no-violentos segundos infractores (second strikers) y reclusos de seguridad mínima con un expediente de buen comportamiento serán reducidas por un-tercio.

No-violentos segundos infractores y reclusos de seguridad mínima califican para ganar ocho semanas adicionales por año de sus sentencias por completar ciertos programas rehabilitativos.

Además, bajo ciertas circunstancias, reclusos de mínima seguridad son elegibles para obtener créditos 2-por-1 por buen comportamiento, mientras no-violentos segundos infractores son elegibles para ser considerados por la comisión de libertad condicional después de purgar la mitad de sus sentencias.

Reclusos que hayan aparecido ante la Comisión de Audiencias de la Prisión y otorgado futuras fechas de libertad deberán ser liberados inmediatamente.

Reclusos médicamente incapacitados están programados para recibir mayor consideración para ser liberados.

Un nuevo proceso de libertad condicional será implementado para prisioneros quienes sean mayores de 60 años de edad y hayan purgado un mínimo de 25 años.

Trece prisiones designadas como ejes de reintegración social serán activadas dentro de un año, mientras programas pilotos de reintegración social son expandidos a más condados y comunidades locales.

Alternativos programas de

custodia serán implementados para mujeres prisioneras.

Los Angeles Times reporto que incluso después de que las reformas tomen lugar, "las prisiones de California continuaran con 3,000 prisioneros más de limite de los que los jueces federales dicen ellos pueden sin ningún percaude detener y aun proveer adecuado cuidado medico y servicios psiquiátricos."

Documentos de la corte reflejan que el problema de sobrepoblacion "esta empeorando envés de mejorar," y advierten, "La población de la prisión esta proyectada a crecer otros 10,000 en los próximos cinco años."

El L.A. Times reporto, "Proyecciones publicadas por el departamento de correcciones reflejan que para 2019 el estado tendrá 26,000 prisioneros más de lo que sus prisiones podrán detener bajo el limite federal maximo."

El presupuesto fiscal 2014-2015 de Brown pide \$9.8 billones para ser usados en correccionales con cerca de \$500 millones para pagar y administrar contratos de prisiones para alojar cerca de 17,000 prisioneros, lo cual son \$100 millones más que este año para alojar 4,700 prisioneros más, según el L.A. Times.

Brown no puede "incrementar el nivel de la población actual de aproximadamente 8,900 prisioneros alojados en prisiones fuera del estado," según la orden de la corte.

Brown dijo que el intenta cumplir con la orden de la corte por medio de "contratar capacidad adicional dentro del estado en las cárceles del condado, instalaciones correccionales comunitarias, y prisiones privadas."

Para obtener la extensión de dos-años, Brown accedió "no apelar o apoyar una apelación de esta orden, cualquier orden subsiguiente necesaria para implementar esta orden, o cualquier orden promulgada por el Oficial de Conformidad."

Native Hawaiian Religious Group Celebrates First Makahiki Event

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

The Native Hawaiian religious group of San Quentin made history when it performed its New Year Fertility event, the Makahiki, inside the prison.

"The Makahiki is our celebration of Lono-Ika-Imakhiki, a time of harvest, whether harvesting the land or the ocean," said Damon Cooke, a spiritual advisor to the group. Cooke explained that the festival recognizes Lono the patron spirit of agriculture, fertility, peace and healing. It is at the time of year when Lono returns to repossess the land as his wife.

"It brings with it seasonal

orful sarongs tied at the waist), danced down the aisle welcoming guests and volunteers with lei's. Afterward, the men began the Haka, a traditional ancestral dance or challenge from the Maori Polynesian people of New Zealand.

"As our ancestors traveled throughout the Polynesian Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Cooke Islands, Nuie, Tuvalu, Pitcarn, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Raro Tonga, Easter Island and Hawaii, they needed a way to announce their presence as they landed on each island," Cooke said.

Originally, the Haka was a war cry, a dance or challenge.

"We do it to maintain the

as in the free world, sometimes people feel excluded. But with the Haka, everybody is included; we make sure that everyone has a voice," said Upu.

They do this by teaching the young men how to speak up and not to be afraid of failure. Upu added that the Native Hawaiian Religious Group of San Quentin constantly reaches out to the youth through the Haka. "It's always been a platform to stress a message of self-worth."

The ceremony moved forward as 15 inmates danced to their positions to perform the "I Ku Mau Mau," a time-honored native Hawaiian call and response chant done by island workers.

"This chant and dance liter-



Photo by Michael Nelson

Anthony Gallo, Reggie Hola and Derrick Kualapai perform the Haka



Photo by Michael Nelson

Grace Taholo, Manusiu Laulea, and Kasi Chakravartula with N.H.R.G.

rains where the land renews its fertility but the underlying message is that the symbolism of the Makahiki is a time of peace, thanksgiving and renewal," Cooke said.

The Makahiki ceremony took place December 7, 2013.

Incarcerated for 24 years for attempted murder, Cooke said the Hawaiian cultural and spiritual group represents all islands in the Polynesian triangle. Moreover, this Makahiki gives them the opportunity to embrace their culture, reinforcing who they are as the Pacific Islanders, an Island nation.

"Our goal is to spread the true Hawaiian Aloha, because our congregation has Samoan, Tongan, and Philipino members learning about each other's cultures. We do this through song, dance and chants," Cooke said.

As the event continued, a procession of 10 men dressed in native Hawaiian Lava-lava's (col-

history of our people, and it's now done as a form of respect for the fallen warriors," said Cooke. "So that's why you see the Haka performed before football games, soccer matches, or rugby, where two opposing sides are about to do battle."

"Yet today the Haka symbolizes more than war, today it's a call for all communities to come together in unity and share knowledge so we can help each other move forward," Cooke said.

Upumoni Ama, aka Upu, is also a member of the San Quentin Native Hawaiian Religious group. Incarcerated for 20 years for second-degree murder, Upu said that when he was a youngster his parents taught him their history and the movements through the Haka.

"I've used this to open up lines of communication with our younger members because,

ally calls for us to work together, no matter what our ethnicities, because what makes any community strong quite often are those things that make us different," said D. Kualapai, (Kuh-wa-la-pie).

Anouthinh Pangthong said



Photo by Michael Nelson

Nick Lopez, Anouthinh Pangthong and Ulua Mase present the Sa Sa ceremonial dance

that he was invited to the group to do a dance but was not expecting the camaraderie that came with it.

"I spend time with the guys on the yard, and I never expected the brotherhood and I really love it. Today was a gift; it was just a good day," said Anouthinh.

Incarcerated for 13 years, Kualapai, 64, has been at San Quentin for about a year and is considered an elder of the group, a "Makua." They are like the parents of the group, explained Kualapai, and as the Makua, "I'm here to offer similar support and guidance."

"This is a miracle that this event is happening; it's been a struggle to say the least," said Grace Taholo, the outside sponsor of the Native Hawaiian Religious Group.

Taholo is Tongan-Fijian and a college student. Born in New Zealand, Taholo has been coming to San Quentin for two years and said that this is her way of giving back.

"I come here and do what I can to help them out, but more times than not, they're actually helping me out. That's why it's good to see that they're doing this. I want our guests to leave the Makahiki inspired about this community," said Taholo.

Robin LeNoue, aka Maui, was convicted of murder for hire 23 years ago, and has been

in San Quentin since 2010. He said this is the fourth Makahiki he has performed in, but the first he has done at this prison.

Maui is teaching the younger members what the elders taught him. "Now that I'm an elder, I'm passing down our values which is self respect, not to be involved in gangs, no drugs, and no gambling," he said.

Hector Heredia, San Quentin's Native American spiritual advisor, said he learned that their cultures are very similar, for instance, "we also recognize the creator and the seasonal changes through song and chants."

Hera Chan, a volunteer with San Quentin's K.I.D. CAT (Kids Creating Awareness Together), a program for inmates convicted as juveniles, described the event as moving. "I want to say that being in San Quentin, I never knew I could find such empowerment for myself here."

Eliza Bruce another K.I.D. CAT volunteer, exclaimed, "The Haka, wow, I was definitely honored to see that. I felt the power. It was beautiful to see the men celebrating their culture and heritage."

Bruce said she had seen the Haka done on TV but that did not compare to watching it in person. "You could feel the energy in the room; it was very moving."

The Native Hawaiian Religious Group also performed the Haka at the 2013 Veteran's Day memorial service held on San Quentin's Lower Yard, said Cooke. "It allowed the Native Hawaiian spiritual group a platform to show our respect and to thank our veterans for their service, dedication and commitment to this great nation."

"I've been incarcerated for a quarter of a century and this is the first time I've really felt like I've been able to give back," Cooke said. "The spirit of Aloha is what we feel when we say good-bye, hello, or I love you. This is a special day for us; it means a lot to us. This day was for our ancestors, Aloha."

Federal Court Rules Proposition 9 and 89 are Unconstitutional

Continued from Page 1

three decisions by the parole board that denied parole. However, the governor affirmed all three denials.

In 2005, Richard M. Gilman and a group of other California life prisoners filed a class-action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California to challenge the practices of past governors and

the parole board review process for inmates sentenced to life with the possibility for parole.

The court found Proposition 89 to be ex post facto and violated the rights of the life prisoners who committed their crimes before November 1988.

The other parole law that the court found unconstitutional was Proposition 9, commonly known as Marsy's Law, which was passed by California vot-

ers in 2008.

Marsy's Law amended California law and changed the periods between parole board hearings for inmates sentenced to life with the possibility for parole.

Before Marsy's Law, the parole board was required to give hearings to inmates sentenced to life with the possibility of parole each year. However, under certain circumstances in

murder cases, hearings could be put off for two to five years.

Marsy's Law changed the law and authorized the parole board to deny parole to inmates sentenced to life with the possibility of parole for up to 15 years, with 10, seven, five, or three years as alternatives.

The determinate for which period to apply under Marsy's Law says the parole board must defer for a longer period if it is

not "highly probable" that the prisoner may be granted parole in lesser time.

The court ruled that Proposition 9 and 89 retroactively increased the punishment for inmates sentenced to life with the possibility of parole. "The court finds that both propositions, as implemented, have violated the ex post facto rights of the class members," the final order read.

EDUCATION CORNER

More Money Spent on Prisons Than Education

By Willie Williams
Contributing Writer

Williams is the Opinion Editor for the Green & Gold newspaper at Fremont High School in Oakland, Calif.

Keeping a prisoner in the Santa Rita Jail is worth more to society than keeping a student in Fremont High School in Oakland.

That's right. California spends \$46,000 per prisoner incarcerated in state prisons per year, but only \$7,000 per student per year

in high school.

"It makes me feel that if I were a criminal, I would be treated better," said Fremont High School senior Malik Adesokan when I told him about this statistic.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is set to receive \$9 billion this fiscal year for all prisoners.

That kind of money could pay for a lot of things Fremont High students have been asking for. It could pay for "music, art or anything else fun" that junior

Ginelle Bernandino would like.

It could pay for "new equipment for the P.E. Department" that senior Vanessa Rivas would like.

It could pay for a new football field and new portables that I would like.

The football field at our school is just 90 yards long, and some of the school's portables are more than 40 years old and rotting.

The good news is that the funding gap may be closing a bit, at least for schools in low-

income areas like ours.

I was part of a campaign by non-profit organization Youth Together and other education reform groups last spring to secure a new way to fund schools.

School districts with more than 55 percent low-income students and English language learners were to receive 20 percent more funding than districts with more privileged students.

Low-income students include anyone who is currently eligible for free and/or reduced lunch. At Fremont High, that is just about everyone.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed this new plan, known as the Local Control Funding Formula, into law on July 1. The school district was supposed to get \$12 million because of the new formula this January.

Jody London represents District 1 on the Oakland Unified School District Board of Directors.

"The board has decided to use these funds primarily to balance our structural deficit, give a two percent raise to all our employees, invest in training and materials for teachers to implement the Common Core Standards, and provide resources and training to help our African-American male students be more successful in school," said London.

It is a good start for the school district. We are in debt and our teachers do deserve more money. But when will the money be spent on what the students want?

Maybe we need another formula. Schools should get at least half of what the state pays for prisoners since we spend half our days at school. Imagine if society were to think your education was worth \$23,000 a year instead of just \$7,000 a year.

John Brown's Play Revisits Slavery And Liberation in San Quentin

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

There was standing room only in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel on Feb. 28 to watch "John Brown's Body"—a documentary about a play of the same name centered on Stephen Vincent Benet's 1928 epic poem about slavery and liberation in the Civil War era.

The documentary premiered last year, but this was the first time that it was shown in San Quentin.

The play, directed by Joe De Francesco, was originally performed in the same chapel in 2002 for an audience of about 75 inmates and 200 outside guests, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

De Francesco was distraught when he noticed that Benet's poem was no longer a part of the public school curriculum. He wanted to bring it back into the public forefront, and thought it could be performed effectively as a dramatic piece. He began working on a script in 1999.

Firstly, there were hurdles to be crossed before De Fran-

cesco could raise the curtain. He lacked actors, and more significantly, funding.

De Francesco tried all of his contacts in Hollywood, asking several famous actors to help him out, but to no avail. That's when someone suggested that he go inside San Quentin to seek actors. The idea was a revelation, he said. Who else had a more in-depth take on racial strife and freedom?

But San Quentin, back in 1999, was a very different place than it is today. Black and white inmates generally did not willingly interact. So the prospect of even producing a theatrical performance centered on slavery, racism, and the American Civil War was far-fetched.

"San Quentin's history is full of racial tension, race riots and murders; so much so, that there is a stretch of about 40 concrete stairs connecting the Lower Yard to the Upper Yard, that was once known to everyone as 'Blood Alley,'" said inmate actor Nelson, "Noble" Butler.

When Francesco initially pitched the idea to the inmates, they met his proposal with in-

credulity. "I think every one of us in blue in that room looked first at each other, then at Joe like he was nuts," said Butler. "Was this guy crazy? Wasn't no way in hell was he gonna be allowed to put on a play dealing with the civil war, racism, violence, and most of all, any type of physical interaction with a female actress."

But De Francesco was persistent. He never let the men's doubt get the best of him, and after a while, his optimistic words of wisdom eventually had an effect on the inmates.

"Joe, being who he is, let it go in one ear and out the other. He kept saying it could work, it could work, it could work, if we just believed. I remember thinking that Joe had watched Peter Pan a few times too many with that 'just believe' crap," said Butler.

"Joe took a special interest in each of us and changed us into a wonderful, special crew of actors that he called us his San Quentin Players," said inmate actor Carl Sampson, who was present at the screening. "Each of us played the other person's script because we were always

short players. We were able to cross the racial line to find the other members we needed."

Progress was slow, as rehearsals were few and far between and the requisite actors were often absent. "We never knew who was going to show up from week to week," said inmate actor Larry Miller in the documentary.

"It took us over two years of hard work, practicing and studying the script. We worked around many obstacles placed in our way to make the film," said Sampson. "One of our hardest problems was finding inmates to work with us."

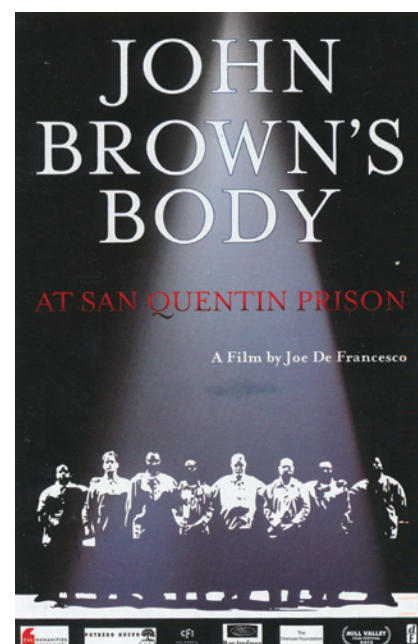
But De Francesco, along with the men he directed, overcame all of the obstacles preventing him from making his vision reality. Not only does the 2002 performance of the play reveal this, but its continued relevance, as revealed by the coming of this documentary 11 years later, shows how this feat of dramatic performance will go on being a meaningful event to everyone who was involved with it.

"I feel like I have a tie with these men who stuck it out," Francesco told the audience, still standing but without complaint or care, after watching the documentary.

"Joe De Francesco is visionary and groundbreaking," said Lesley Currier, co-director of the Marin Shakespeare Project at San Quentin, who was present at the screening. "I'm constantly reminded of the intelligence that exists in this place."

Sampson credits English professor Wendy Drucker for helping the inmates produce the play. In addition, he credits retired Warden Jeanne Woodford. "We are all appreciative and honored to have had such a committed set of staff members," said Sampson.

According to KQED, in a review of the documentary, "In addition to the expected (and gratifying) testimony that par-



ticipating in a play made a difference to the inmates, 'John Brown's Body' allows the viewer to see the humanity in murderers."

"De Francesco's film focuses on the preparation, performance and aftermath of this life-changing event as current and former inmates reflect on what it meant to be plucked from the monotony of life behind bars and given the opportunity to express themselves on stage about issues of race and liberty," according to The Marin Interfaith Council. "Absorbing and emotionally charged, 'John Brown's Body' at San Quentin Prison illuminates the undeniable connection between creative freedom and spiritual fulfillment."

But perhaps more important than these reviews about what the documentary reveals to those on the outside, is what the play meant to those who actually partook in it 12 years ago.

"Joe, you gave us something no one could ever give us and something no one could ever take away," said Butler.

Inmate cast:

Larry Miller

Carl Sampson

Nelson "Noble" Butler

Ernest Morgan

George Lamb

J.B. Wells

Jeff Golden

Ronin Holmes

Marcus Lopes

Female parts read by: Blancett Reynolds

Music: The Pacific Mozart Ensemble



File Photo

Blancett Reynolds, George Lamb, J.B. Wells, Ernest Morgan, Jeff Golden, Larry Miller, Joe DeFrancesco

Prison Art On Display for Good Causes

By John C. Eagan
Adviser

Tucked away in prison cells across America are talented artists who are working to turn their lives around and help make the world a better place, says a lady who is exhibiting inmate-produced animal paintings and drawings.

“I would like the show to provoke questions on the part of the viewing public to challenge their preconceived (ideas) about inmates and the prison system,” said artist Leslie H., as she asked to be identified.

“We can all admit to having made bad choices at some point in our lives, but those choices and actions should not ultimately dictate nor define who we are, or who we will become,” she said in a recent interview.

The show features 23 paintings and drawings by numerous prisoners whose works he has collected for years. The



Photo by Michael Nelson

Tommy Winfrey putting the finishing touches to “Cowgirl”

show was featured for the month of March in the lobby of the Marin Humane Society,

where Leslie is a volunteer. The show’s centerpiece is a painting called “Cowgirl,”

the work of San Quentin prisoner Tommy Winfrey, priced at \$956.

A Cowgirl was painted during the time I fell in love with a girl for the first time. Her name was Angel,” Winfrey said in an interview. “She helped me to see the true power of women, to see them in a different light, and view them for their strength instead of their weaknesses. It is the first time I saw women as individuals, not as objects.”

What happened with her? “She took off on her horse and left me in the sunset,” Winfrey said. “I still hold her dear in my heart.”

Leslie mentors Winfrey in a San Quentin program

called The Last Mile, which trains inmates on setting up businesses.

Twenty percent of art sales go to The Last Mile and 20 percent to Pen Pals, a San Quentin program where inmates train dogs for the Humane Society. The balance is for show costs and to provide prisoners with art supplies, Leslie said.

“Painting has allowed me an opportunity to express myself. Along with my writing, art has given me a voice that I lacked in the past,” Winfrey said. “When

I create, my inner reality becomes a reality for the world to view.

“The Last Mile is a group that allowed me to transform from a quiet and reserved individual to a person with confidence. It helped me to start to believe in myself and my talents. My business idea in TLM is named Art Felt Creations. This business would allow inmates a platform to sell their art and tell their story -- something that in my opinion could change many people’s lives.”

Leslie said she first encountered prisoner art at a 2005 auction. She has since then collected art from hundreds of men and women prisoners.

“A lot of people who wind up in prison are actually very brilliant and talented people,” said Leslie. “I cannot express how much it means to me to be able to support, encourage and inspire these men and women and to see them turn their lives around.”



Photo by John Eagan

Artist Leslie H. displays prisoners’ artwork



Photo by John Eagan

“Assured” by Kenneth Spikes

Four S. Q. Bands Debut at Music Lockdown Concert

William James Association Sponsors The Prison Arts Project At San Quentin

By Malik Harris
Staff Writer

Four San Quentin bands made their public debut Feb. 8 in a fun-filled night. Two bands from Marin County performed a benefit concert at the Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley alongside videos of the prison bands.

Music Lockdown, a Benefit for the Prison Arts Program

,featured This Old Earthquake and Beso Negro. The concert included a filmed performance from four San Quentin bands – The Human Condition, NSF, Just Came to Play, and Cold Steal Blue.

The show began at 9 p.m. with three prisoner-Tommy Winfrey, Dave Basile and Borey “Pee J” Ai-speaking about the benefits they have received from being part of programs at San Quentin.

Tickets priced between \$20 and \$25, along with additional donations, raised \$3,080. All profits will go to benefit the William James Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing arts programs to prisoners.

According to a press release, “The William James Association sponsors the Prison Arts Project at San Quentin. William James Association’s 37 years of organizing prison arts has shown that inmates exposed to arts and music have better chances of success inside and upon release.”

San Quentin bands traditionally play live shows on the prison yard, and this was the first time a performance like this has aired for the public.

Raphaelae Casale, sponsor of the Music and Performance Program, says, “Being a sponsor of the program has allowed me to see how much talent the men at San Quentin have.”

According to the press release, “The San Quentin Music and Performance Program, a self-help, member-based activity group, gives inmates a chance to express themselves via music and arts instead of violence and anger. The program aims to create a networking structure of rehabilitation through the enhancement of musical and artistic skills as well as encouraging group morale, self-discipline, self-worth and a realization of each member’s potential to be a productive citizen in a free society.”

The William James Association funds the Prison Arts Project through donations. Previously art programs in state prisons

were funded by the state government in a program named Arts in Corrections.

Arts in Corrections was eliminated from the state’s budget years ago, but the William James Association has managed to keep the art programs alive in San Quentin.

Taylor Cutcomb of the band

This Old Earthquake donated many hours to make the show a success. He helped to record the audio portion of the video alongside prisoners Ray Aldridge and Dwight Krizman.

San Quentin TV recorded and produced the video that was aired at the Sweetwater Music Hall.

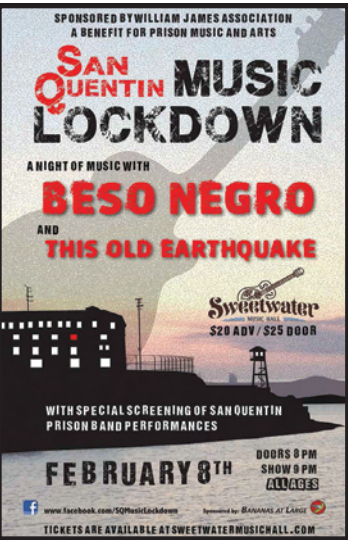


Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Music producer Taylor and the Blues Band prepping before the show

The Last Mile Apprentices Inspire Venture Capitalists on Demo Day

Continued from Page 1

to an audience, including San Quentin Warden Kevin Chappell and head of the state's prisons, Jeff Beard. "There are people out

think about growth of the men of this past session in terms of their knowledge and confidence. I swell with pride. Their dedication and hard work was evident in the quality of their presen-

away being helped more than helping. I ended up being the benefactor."

Keynote speaker MC Hammer said, "While Chris knows me in the tech world, you guys know me from growing up. You know I could have easily been sitting right there with you," he told the crowd. "Don't even look back. Press forward. We are not hindered by our past. The past is the past. This program is really about life. Don't just buy into the business. It's about the people. You've got a great opportunity, not just the business, but the program itself."

"Prison life always promotes negativity," Hammer went on to say, "Don't let that perspective get to you. Seek the light, let people see you through The Last Mile. The Last Mile is a tough mile. When you run it, the last mile of this prison—don't let them see you sweat."

"These guys are motivated to learn," said William Fisher of Cisco. "This is all about realizing your ideas."

Before the participants pitched their ideas Redlitz said, "This is the first time a lot of these guys are presenting to a large crowd."

First up was Aly Tamboura. He said after the San Bruno gas line explosion, and the 90 minutes it took to turn off the gas, he thought if the authorities had better access to the underground pipelines, there would have been less property damage, but moreover, lives could have been saved. His company, *VeriSight*, would "harvest" information about underground utilities and digitize them for instant access. His slogan, "Do it safe. Do it Right. Do it using *VeriSight*."

Al Amin McAdoo said on September 8, 2012, his daughter became a victim of a drive-by shooting. McAdoo told the audience about the crime that landed him in prison—he partook in a drive-by shooting where the victim of his crime was mistaken for someone else. "I recognized the damage I caused our community," he said. "That's why I created *Public Outcry*, a company devoted to curtail violence. Our apparel will unite communities under the banner of peace." McAdoo said parts of the proceeds from *Public Outcry* would be donated to *Raw Talent*.

Jerome Boone created the firm *Boone Appetite* his slogan: "Where great food and experience meet." *Boone Appetite* is an online delivery service that brings all the ingredients for a "first-class" meal right to your doorstep. The packet includes accessories, such as music, movies, and fine wine. "All you have to do is cook it," Boone said.

Raymond Ho's company, *Gimme*, is geared for people



Raymond Ho presenting his idea "Gimme"

who see things they like and want to buy it. But they don't know how to get it. The concept is simple, he said. "If you see someone wearing something you like, take your phone and take a picture of it," Ho said. The photo gets uploaded to his

"Wow, there's a lot of people here," Tim Thompson said lightening the atmosphere. His idea, *4-Real Ballers*, came after examining his own mistakes in life. He said he wanted to find an "alternative" system to link athletes with coaches,"



Tim Thompson presenting his pitch called "4 Real Ballers"

App, which is a search engine, and gives the person information on how to get it. "See it. Snap it. gimme it," Ho told the audience.

Damon L. Cooke wants to supply services to seniors

as he joked, "I got flagged for unnecessary stupidity and benched for 18 years. Our goal is to create scholarship opportunities for youngsters who otherwise may not exist." The idea



Damon L. Cooke shares his "Active Alternative"

with dignity. *Active Alternatives* combine the Eastern proactive of honoring elders, with Western technology. "We will reconnect our seniors with the world we live in," he said. "Active Alternatives will reduce the social isolation prevalent today seniors suffer from."

uses YouTube to post athletic feats on *4-Real Baller's* website. "Become a Baller Nation, Scout," Thompson encouraged the audience. He said with the more than 5 billion monthly users of YouTube, by getting a video to go viral would generate proceeds for the scholar-

ship fund.

Phoeun You, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge genocide, said *Universal Healing* has a three-fold objective: to employed veterans to defuse unexploded land mines in

families for dogs in need. The website would have a variety of support services for the owners, such as dog walking, obedience training and grooming.

KnottyBird is the idea of



Phoeun You sharing his thoughts on "Universal Healing"

war-torn areas of the world; to provide land mine technologies; and to collaborate with other humanitarian organizations. "Today, more than 10 percent of our heroes are unemployed," You said. "Universal Healing

Trevor Bird. *KnottyBird* is an action tracker that measures air speed, vertical height, banks and rotation to score snowboard runs. Bird said the App would allow users to link up and compete against each other.



Trevor Bird Introduces *KnottyBird*

finds and deactivates unexploded bombs."

Joe Demerson, creator of *Canine Connections* said to think of his company as the *eHarmony* of dog adoption. He said *Canine Connections* would link to shelters and create profiles to help find

He said part of the proceeds from *KnottyBird* would be donated to the Sierra Club. Harry Hemphill said he wanted to create opportunities for ex-offenders. His staffing and training company called *Catapult* seeks to "bridge the gap between



Phil E. Philips and Joe Demerson

software developers and qualified applicants."

"The public perception of what happens in prison comes from television," said Rahim Fazal, an employee of Oracle. "I'm humbled. I am so inspired. My eyes are so open. My mind is so open. The Last Mile business pitches are some of the best I've ever seen."

"I've always wanted to interview inmates," said writer Nicole Baptista. "I feel like we all share a similar existence and struggles. I find it very intriguing to be around people who are not perfect. I feel like everyone I spoke to today was not only intelligent but extremely compassionate."

"After each session, we assess the effectiveness of the experience for the men, volunteers, greater business community and inside S.Q.," Parenti said. "Today, we share the responsibilities of running TLM so that we can scale the program and reach more men (and hopefully someday soon, women)."

There were more than 150 inmates in the audience. Inmate Quadree Birch said, "When I was sitting in there, I was inspired. With all the business education, it will help anyone succeed."

In an effort to expand the program, TLM made its way to Los Angeles County Jail last October.

The program implemented at the Twin Towers facility is led by rapper Ross Rowe. The first class is scheduled to graduate this May. "I'm really impressed with how far his men have come in such a short period of time," Ross said.

The class started with 15 men. Some of the men were released under Realignment, and others through time cuts. With six men ready to graduate, Rowe says he's really proud of the men.

The Last Mile "is not so much about the business project, as it is the process of organizing to achieve a goal," Rowe said.

Rowe has good reason to be interested in inmates and their future. At 17, he did a three-year stint in a Michigan prison. "All the education programs were eliminated and we had no way to improve ourselves," he said about programs in Michigan prisons.

He said he always wanted to be a part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. "I've been looking for a way to assist incarcerated men since getting out." Now 36, Rowe said he realizes one of the most important elements of success, is learning to focus on the goal, and then organize to achieve the goal.

The Redlitz/Parenti team is now focusing on getting TLM inside Santa Cruz County Jail.



Keith Wroten and James Cavitt performing "Purpose"

Kristie Clemens, program coordinator for Santa Cruz County Jail, said when she heard about TLM she contacted Redlitz for more information. Clemens said one-third of the county's Realignment funding went

"JC" Cavitt, and Keith Wroten electrified the crowd with *Purpose*.

Cavitt said *Purpose* gives recognition to the trials, tribulations and success of all TLM graduates. "The purpose of The Last



Program Coordinator for Santa Cruz County Jail Kristie Clemens,

to building a 64-bed dormitory/educational space for minimum-custody inmates. The plan to fund the TLM project is to obtain a \$750,000 federal grant

Mile is more than just having a blueprint towards realizing your dreams, it is lifelong membership of being a part of something greater, which is a family."



The Last Mile staff and participants

through The Second Chance Act. "Only 10 grants are going to be given," Clemens said. "We hope to be in the running for one of them with the TLM team's support."

To close out Demo Day, Spoken Word poets James

Wroten said, "It's learning from your struggles, and being gracious in your victories."

—Kevin D. Sawyer, Julian Glenn Padgett, Ted Swain, Kris Himmelberger, and Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this article.



Audience gives the presenters a standing ovation

there that don't believe that programs like this can change a prisoner's life but they can," said founding member Kenyatta Leal. "The Last Mile taught me how to change my thoughts and my life. These lessons proved to be valuable to me

tations at Demo Day."

More than 50 business professionals gave assistance to the graduating class as mentors.

"I get hope from working with all the guys," said mentor Andrew Kaplan, a representative from Linked



Lonnie Morris and Kenyatta Leal

as I transitioned to society."

TLM cofounder Beverly Parenti said, "Initially, I set out to help Chris realize his dream of creating a technology accelerator inside San Quentin. That's what we did in the free world," adding, "When I

In. "Their hunger to learn to succeed, their energy makes me try harder. I leave here every time with a renewed strength."

"I'm a mentor," said Dominic Whittles, CEO of an advertising company. "I got involved to help the guys of The Last Mile. But I walked



Jerome Boone congratulated on stage by Chris Redlitz

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Easter was the name of pagan vernal festival coincident in date with paschal festival of the church.

An annual Christian ceremony celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, held on the first Sunday after the date of the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21, otherwise known as Easter.

Smallest rabbit breed was found in Poland and Netherlands weighing in at 2-2.5lb, according to Guinness World Records.

The rabbit jumped 39.2 in. (99.5 cm). It was recorded as the highest jump in Herning, Denmark by Guinness World on June 28, 1997.

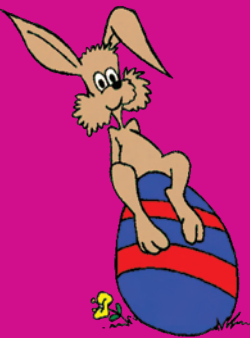
Eostara was the goddest of Easter equinox.

Recognized in 7 current records, Peter Dowdeswell of UK set a record of having the fastest time to eat soft-boiled eggs, 38 eggs in 1 min. and 15 sec. on May 28, 1984.

Exhibited as the largest Easter-egg hunt, in Stone Mount Park, Georgia, the egg hunt consist of 301,000 eggs that were searched for by 5,189 children and 4,834 adults--totaling 10,023 people, for the release of Peter Cottontail: The Movie on April 9, 2006.

Guinness World Records logged in the largest rabbit weighing in at 24 lb. 14 oz.

Guinness World Records also documented that the largest egg was laid by an ostrich weighing in at 5.47 lb. (2.48kg). Although the shell was only 0.06 in. (1.5mm) thick, it could hold up the weight of an adult person.



Sudoku Corner

By Jonah Vark

2			8					
3	1	9						
					5			
	3			4				
4		2			1	5		
	5		9			1		2
7	8		3				2	
	6	1						8
					6		1	4

		6					7	5
		3	2					
4		9	6					
					6		2	1
6				1	7			
9	1	8						
2		5		3		8		
			9			4		
	7					9		2

POETRY CORNER

My Secret Place
By Mike Wolke

There's a secret place inside my head
Where no one's allowed to go.
There, stands a guard, a wee small ogre
A neon sign and a single world of "No."
This secret place is neither good nor bad
But, belongs to me alone.
I hide my precious treasures there
Within this chambered zone.
Once I thought I'd share this place
With a person who I'd found.
But I changed my mind, and instead
Got a puppy from the pound.
The puppy doesn't want inside my head
Where no one's allowed to go.
He just wants to be fed and loved
And to go everywhere I go.
My secret place is as safe today
As it was the day before.
And no one shall gain entrance there
For now and evermore.

The answer to last month puzzle is: Six pairs of gloves. If you take 5 pairs of gloves, you'll have one of each color. If that's the case, the sixth sock will make a match for one of the socks.

The winner to last month's puzzle is:
Gene McCallum II

Congratulation to the following contestants who also got it right: B. Gillean, F. Laim and E. Vick

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

2	6	9	3	8	5	1	7	4
7	1	4	9	2	6	8	3	5
5	3	8	4	1	7	6	2	9
4	9	5	7	6	8	3	1	2
1	8	3	2	4	9	7	5	6
6	7	2	1	5	3	9	4	8
3	4	7	6	9	2	5	8	1
9	5	1	8	3	4	2	6	7
8	2	6	5	7	1	4	9	3

7	1	6	3	8	2	5	9	4
9	4	8	6	1	5	2	7	3
5	3	2	7	9	4	8	6	1
8	5	1	4	7	3	6	2	9
2	9	7	1	5	6	4	3	8
3	6	4	9	2	8	1	5	7
4	2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6
6	7	5	8	4	9	3	1	2
1	8	3	2	6	7	9	4	5

Greetings from around the World



"The San Quentin News is great reading anywhere, even on safari in Tanzania"

Kay and her husband, S.Q. News Adviser Steve McNamara

Photo by Phil Barnes

Free Speech Behind Bars

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the year the San Quentin newspaper was suspended for 45 days. The circumstances surrounding our suspension were somewhat alluded to in the February/March editorial message. I won't revisit the controversy or particulars of that issue. However, I do feel a pressing need to present an OG's perspective on the question of censorship. Obviously, any news publication operating inside a prison is subject to restrictions. So let us not kid ourselves or hide behind any illusions. There

is no genuine freedom of the press at the *San Quentin News*. The prison administration will always have the final say-so on what we can and cannot publish. And occasionally, they will exercise their authority and perhaps their need to demonstrate to us that they're the ones calling the shots. We have to be very mindful of our situation and how we choose our subjects and frame our articles, especially when expressing critical opinions or perspectives on controversial issues. One question is always at the forefront of our journalistic minds: How do we write critically what needs to be

written without overtly offending or crossing administrative boundaries? And for most of the staff writers here at *San Quentin News*, that boundary can become a tightrope. While restrictions from the administration are expected, the real threat to freedom of expression is self-censorship. Self-censorship shapes what we choose to write about (or not write about). Our commitment and our challenge as journalists with the *San Quentin News* is for us to continue to write about issues that are real and relevant to the incarcerated men and women who have no voice. As a result of this latest ad-



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Watani Stiner

ministrative shutdown of the newspaper, we are once again reminded that we are prisoners first and journalists second. If nothing else, the real meaning and message of this most recent shutdown is to affirm that the administration is calling the shots. Yet even with the adminis-

tration's supervision, our readers should always be critical, vigilant and demanding of us. If our reporting deteriorates to the point where the *San Quentin News* is the mouthpiece of the administration, this newspaper will have lost its journalistic integrity and legitimacy as the "Pulse of San Quentin."

Taking Self-Reflection and Ownership of Your Past

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nearly everyone living in limbo in American prisons and jails got there after being distracted from reality and doing something they thought would not be noticed. They assumed they would get away with "it." But, how wrong they were. *The Kin of Ata are Waiting for You*, by Dorothy Bryant is a story about understanding yourself through self-reflection and then taking ownership of your past. Just as the protagonist (who remained a nameless man throughout the story) said, "I don't excuse what I did then. It, like most of my life, was inexcusable. But, I understand it. I was a thoroughly lost, dislocated man." It is a story that touches on Eastern and Western philosophies while showing that individuality and social bonding are equally important to humanity. The subtle lessons about society, family, and people eased into the storyline of *The Kin of Ata are Waiting for You*. Although it is not clear, what is real and what is a dream, it is clear that the Atains live for and through their dreams.

BOOK REVIEW

The unadulterated societal driver in this story is simple: Live to follow your dreams and dream to find out what to do with your life. However, getting this idea across to someone caught up in a consumer-based society would sound crazy as the protagonist realized, "In a moment I would sit up and laugh and write down my dream for the psychiatrist. It was a good one. He would dig into it like a kid making mud pies." Let your imagination run wild: What if you are dreaming right now? Looking at the person I was nearly two decades ago, pre-incarceration, the protagonist reflecting on his life fit me well: "I am an empty man, not a real person. I gave away what was real in me long ago. I sold it for nothing. I am nothing. I am not fit to live." Bryant has a way of storytelling that engages readers early on. Even though I agree that the protagonist is not fit to live, as his continuous and disgusting

acts before dreaming and while dreaming are indefensible, Bryant pitches a strong argument for the continuation of all humanity at all costs. "The human race is like a suicide, perching on the edge of a cliff, wavering, teetering. When she is about to fall over the edge, one of us goes out and using all the strength he has, makes a wind that blows against the falling, keeps humanity wavering on the brink," writes Bryant. This delicate balance is artfully crafted in *The Kin of Ata are Waiting for You*. Those living the life of an inmate in a prison are obsessed with getting out of these darkened places, devoid of love. The inmate wants out to be released. However, in many cases, to be found suitable for parole requires very specific articulation to a panel of so-called experts who are tasked with determining whether the inmate is no longer a danger to the rest of the community. The inmate is put on display and must perform a ritual before representatives of

the community, showing the things learned from past mistakes. The inmate must express clear insight as to why they have done things that required stark separation from the rest of society in the form of prison bars. The sad and lonely place, called prison, forces this revelation upon its subjects.

"The human race is like a suicide, perching on the edge of a cliff, wavering, teetering"

Effective communication skills are important for inmates who want to get their ideas across to the parole board, ultimately leading to freedom. Comparably, I interpret the protagonist's desire to understand the Atains' language as a means to figure out how to get out of Ata and back to the real world. However, in an attempt to decipher the Atains' language, the protagonist found that

"verbs lacked tense—literally, as they spoke, there was no sense of past or future, only of now, the present moment." Therefore, the Atains lived for the moment. When the protagonist tried to figure out how much time he should spend working, he was told, "However much makes your body ready for good dreams. At first, now, not too much, I think. It will change. Later you will work more. You will find the rhythm. No work makes mean dreams; too much work makes pain and twitching. Useless dreams either way." *The Kin of Ata are Waiting for You* is filled with lines that will stick with me forever, making me stop and think about the way I am living: "Jealousy is such an ugly feeling. One would do anything rather than be filled with that sick feeling." Along with, "Wasn't all art impossible? Art was an attempt to capture the real, to pin it down, to keep it still, so that we can understand." These dreamy literary lines make reading *The Kin of Ata are Waiting for You* enjoyable even after the more than four decades since it was written.

Realignment Offenders Pose Minimum Change in Conviction Rate

Continued from Page 1

the Realignment group were ineligible to return to state prison for parole violations. "Realignment is intended to reserve state prisons for people convicted of serious offenses," reported Lizzie Buchen and M. Males in their study Beyond Realignment for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. According to the CJCJ report, arrest of offenders post-Realignment occurred at a "slightly lower" rate than pre-Realignment offenders – 56.2 percent versus 58.9 percent, respectively. "Post-Realignment offenders were more likely to be arrested for a felony than pre-Realignment offenders. The most

common felony arrests were for drug and property crimes," the CJCJ report said. When comparing convictions, it was reported that Post-Realignment offenders were convicted of new offenses a little more often than pre-Realignment (21.0 percent and 20.9 percent, respectively). There was, however, a noticeable "downward trend" for these two groups over the course of the study. "Post-Realignment offenders were slightly more likely to be convicted of a felony than pre-Realignment offenders" (58.1 percent and 56.6 percent, respectively), the report said. The most common convictions for both groups were felony drug and property crimes.

"Most offenders in both [groups], about 79 percent, were not convicted of a new crime within a year of release," the CDCR report said. Post-Realignment offenders had a "significantly" lower return-to-prison rate than pre-Realignment offenders – 7.4 percent as opposed to 32.4 percent, respectively. "Post-Realignment, nearly all of the offenders who returned to prison did so for a new conviction rather than a parole violation – 99.9 percent versus 0.1." The report reiterates that only specific offenders can be returned to prison for a parole violation. Such examples include third strikers and mentally disordered offenders, according to CDCR.

According to the report, research done by the Public Policy Institute of California "found that the jail population increased, but not by the magnitude of the corresponding decline in the state prison population." The report said there was no one-to-one exchange from state prisons to county jails where one offender leaves prison and another enters jail. "Realignment increases the jail population by approximately one inmate for every three-inmate decline in the State prison population. Additionally, more counties reported early release of jail inmates due to insufficient capacity," the report said. The ratio of realigned of-

fenders compared to sentenced inmates being released early is four to one (4:1). "Approximately 90 percent of both [groups] are not sex registrants. The majority had served a determinate sentence, with approximately 15 percent indeterminately sentenced as 'second-strikers' or 'lifers.' Most offenders have high CSRA scores, mostly for violence, then property and drug, followed by medium and then low CSRA scores," the report said. See, October 2013 San Quentin News, "Two Studies Help CDCR Judge Inmate Risk Level" The report said incarceration in California's jails and prisons overall has been reduced as a result of realignment.

Sterilization as Birth Control

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Dr. James Heinrich, a prison OBGYN, told the *Center for Investigative Reporting* that the money spent sterilizing female inmates is minimal “compared to what you save in welfare paying for these unwanted children.”

Corey G. Johnson, reporter for *CIR* covering money and politics, reported that in addition to being responsible for hundreds of female inmate sterilizations, Heinrich “has a history of medical controversies and expensive malpractice settlements both inside and outside prison walls.”

Between 2006 and 2012, Heinrich arranged nearly 400 accounts of sterilization, including hysterectomy, ovary removal, and endometrial ablation, a procedure that destroys the uterus’s lining, at Valley State Prison, according to data obtained under the California Public Records Act.

Despite his history of medical practices, Heinrich was hired even after a federal judge ordered a receiver to clean up the unconstitutional medical system in California’s prisons.

In order to prevent unnecessary surgeries and medical costs in prisons, California requires all surgery referrals to be signed off by a state-level committee of medical professionals. According to the medical service request records gathered by *CIR*, more than half the surgery referrals made at Chowchilla’s Valley State Prison, which became a

male prison in 2013, did not receive the necessary sign-off.

From 2006 to 2008, Valley State Prison averaged 150 sterilization surgeries per year -- six times that of Central California Women’s Facility, the largest women’s prison in the state.

Though Heinrich did not talk to Johnson for his report, Heinrich’s attorney, Ronald B. Bass, said he could not comment on Heinrich’s role because he had not seen the data compiled by *CIR*.

However, in response to *CIR*’s initial report, the Federal Receiver decided to bar Heinrich from future prison work. After two hearings in last August, lawmakers in Sacramento have ordered the Medical Board of California and the California State Auditor to “investigate the situation.”

Crystal Nguyen, a former inmate worker at the Valley State infirmary, received a letter in August advising her that, “The medical board is currently examining Dr. Heinrich’s patient care,” requesting her participation.

When contacted by *CIR* last September, Nguyen provided names of many others who were witnesses to Heinrich’s medical habits, such as eating while conducting vaginal exams. However state and federal rules ban health care professionals from having food and drink in areas where patients are treated.

Nguyen believed that the named witnesses felt powerless to get Heinrich to change his ways.

“It was gross. It just creeped

me out,” said Nguyen.

Several former inmates told *CIR* that Heinrich pushed hysterectomies and other sterilization surgeries during routine visits, often giving misleading information about the medical reasons.

Johnson reported that one former inmate, Tamika Thomas of Stockton, saw Heinrich in 2006 to request birth control pills to regulate her menstrual cycle. Thomas said Heinrich refused her request and recommended endometrial ablation without advising her that this surgery would sterilize her.

Thomas also recalled Heinrich asking her if she had children. Thomas told Johnson that when she told the doctor that she has two boys, his face turned red and he said to her, “That’s too many.”

According to *CIR*, a team of federal examiners visited Valley State prison to investigate the deaths of two inmates’ babies during childbirth. They found that one newborn died, in part, because Heinrich, the staff and another prison doctor each gave the mother the wrong prenatal medicine.

The other death, the team concluded, resulted from Heinrich failing to perform a routine prenatal test for bacteria, according to court documents. The *Center for Investigative Reporting* also reported that medical documents show the state paid the woman \$150,000 to settle against Heinrich, and that the Attorney General’s office and CDCR filed doc-

Health & Wellness

By Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

Cold season is here again and the question always comes up: Is it OK to exercise if I have a cold?

According to Mayo Clinic Doctor Edward R. Laskowski, M.D. mild to moderate physical activity is usually OK if you have a garden-variety cold and no fever. Exercise opens your nasal passages and temporarily relieves nasal congestion, which may even help you feel better.

As a general guide for exercise and illness, consider this: Are the signs and symptoms above the neck? Some of the signs and symptoms of the common cold are a runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing or minor sore throat.

If your signs and symptoms are below the neck (such as chest congestion, hacking cough or upset stomach), don’t exercise.

Consider reducing the intensity and length of your workout. Instead of going for a run, take a walk. If you attempt to exercise at your normal intensity when you have more than a simple cold, you could risk more serious injury or illness.

Don’t exercise if you have a fever, fatigue or widespread muscle aches.

Ultimately, you want to let your body be your guide. If you don’t feel up to a full exercise, scale back a bit or take a few days off before resuming your normal workout routine. Most importantly, if you’re not sure it’s OK to exercise check with your doctor.

uments in 2010 acknowledging Heinrich’s negligence.

Furthermore Michelle Diaz, another former inmate, accused Heinrich of alleged unprofessional and unsanitary behavior while performing a Pap smear, according to *CIR*.

According to Diaz, 36, during a visit to get treatment for irritation near her genitals. Diaz told Heinrich that the discomfort was outside her vagina, but Heinrich inserted his fingers inside her and noticed the doctor was not wearing gloves. Then, without warning, Heinrich applied a burning

chemical to her vaginal area.

Diaz filed a complaint against Heinrich in March 2008 and one of Heinrich’s regular nurses confirmed that Heinrich did not warn Diaz before treating her, a piece of information kept confidential before it became public as part of a federal lawsuit, according to *CIR*.

After his retirement in 2011, records show that Heinrich returned to the prison as a contractor, continuing to order sterilization, and was responsible for training his replacement at the prison.

Senate Bill Introduced Restricting Prison Sterilizations

By N. T. “Noble” Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

In January, the California State Senate introduced legislation designed to prevent prison doctors from abusing inmate patients by restricting the use of sterilization procedures in state prisons and detention facilities.

Lawmakers were pressed into drafting Senate Bill 1135 after the discovery that 132 women had been given tubal ligation surgeries—in effect, having their tubes tied to prevent them from getting pregnant, the *Center for Investigative Reporting* (*CIR*) reports.

Former inmates and prisoner advocates reported to *CIR* that medical staff had targeted women they deemed most likely to return to prison and coerced them into having the surgeries—a direct violation of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) policy.

SB 1135 would require prison officials to use all measures short of sterilization for the inmate patient. Exceptions would be allowed in cases of a medical emergency where the patient’s life is in imminent danger.

SB 1135 also requires that if a female inmate needs to be sterilized prison medical officials

would have to first obtain an independent outside physician’s approval and then provide for counseling afterward. In addition, prison officials would be required to report the number of such surgeries, and include information such as race, age, why the sterilization was deemed necessary, and the surgical method used.

Since 1994, CDCR regulations have restricted sterilization surgeries, but SB 1135 would eliminate a loophole, which did not place limits on surgeries that would remove a woman’s uterus and ovaries.

State Sen. Hanna-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), spon-

sored the bill. Co-sponsors are state Sen. Loni Hancock, (D-Berkeley), Joel Anderson, (R-Alpine in San Diego County) and Assemblywoman Bonnie Losenthal, (D-Long Beach).

Jackson is the vice-chairwoman of the California Legislative Women’s Caucus.

“The women’s caucus has been vigilant in trying to uncover and fight against the traumatic abuse that incarcerated women have suffered by these sterilization procedures,” Sen. Jackson said in a *CIR* interview. “We want to make sure that the unconscionable act of forced sterilization never occurs again in California.”

This episode is not the first time California was found to be abusing women using sterilization, according to *CIR*. Between 1909 and 1964, about 20,000 women were sterilized, targeting mostly minorities, the poor, disabled, mentally ill and those who had criminal conviction.

Johnson, Joyce Hayhoe, spokesperson for the federal receiver in charge of the state prisons’ medical system, lauded the legislation. “The receiver’s office is supportive of the Bill being introduced by Sen. Jackson.”

The spokesperson for CDCR declined to make a statement in response to the *CIR* report.

Thousands of Innocent People Wrongfully Convicted

Continued from Page 1

traditionally been thought of as the gold standard of criminal prosecution, according to the report. Despite that, mistaken eyewitness identification has played a role in 81 percent of the wrongful convictions. Four-fifths of that most-relied-upon factor in convictions has been proven wrong, the report’s authors say.

The authors conclude that convicted inmates still find it very difficult to get court approval for DNA testing despite mounting evidence that trial courts often do not make a correct finding.

DNA testing was introduced in the early 1980s, and by the 1990s, DNA analysis had altered the wrongful conviction debate forever. By providing positive

proof that innocent people have been convicted, courts can no longer say their determinations are always correct, the report says. It concludes that exonerations to date are only the tip of the iceberg. Some believe for each case where the wrongful conviction can be proven by use of DNA analysis, there are many more wrongful convictions that are more difficult to prove, according to the study.

Forensic Magazine said books have been published for nearly a hundred years, questioning whether innocent persons were being convicted in the United States. Conventional methods of investigation occasionally resulted in overturning someone’s wrongful conviction. Still, there was little evidence that actually innocent people had been con-

victed.

With the advent of DNA testing, it became possible to prove someone innocent beyond a reasonable doubt. As reported in *Forensic Magazine*, the Innocence Project has documented that from 1989 through the end of 2013, there have been 162 exonerations of people who were on Death Row.

The National Registry of Exonerations has recorded 1,265 exonerations as of the end of 2013. The registry is a joint project of the University of Michigan Law School and Northwestern University School of Law. A number of law schools and innocence projects are working to free wrongfully convicted persons. Estimates of the total number of exonerations vary; The *Week Magazine* says more than 2,000

have been exonerated since 1989.

The Innocence Project says at least 416 people were exonerated of wrongful homicide convictions by the end of 2013; also, 129 convictions were overturned for crimes that did not even happen.

The Ohio State report, which includes findings of the FBI, extrapolated figures of almost two-million criminal cases. Huff said the report favored conservative estimates, so the figures are probably low.

“Wrongful convictions have rarely been investigated beyond a specific case study,” said Jon Gould, J.D., Ph.D., professor and director of the Washington Institute for Public and International Affairs Research at American University. “This is especially troubling since our criminal legal system is predicated on find-

ing defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt before imprisoning them.”

Gould’s team identified factors involved in wrongful conviction tendencies. One factor involves tunnel vision of prosecutors, where when faced with a weak case, they double down on prosecution of the accused, rather than looking at alternative suspects. Other factors include lying witnesses and prior convictions of a suspect. A suspect with prior convictions is easy to convict again, he says. Weak defense counsel and failure of prosecution to disclose exculpatory evidence are other factors.

The researchers point out that wrongful convictions cost millions of dollars in prison costs, plus leave guilty people on the streets.

E.L.I.T.E.'s Program 'Transforms the Individual's Thinking and Behavior'

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Leadership is a worthy goal. Leaders are pioneers – people who seek out new opportunities and are willing to change the status quo.

Leadership that gets results was the theme of a 16-week self-help curriculum recently offered at San Quentin. After completing the course, 52 participants graduated on Feb. 13, 2014.

Atik Pathan, the group facilitator said, “The mission of the Exploring Leadership and Improving Transitional Effectiveness (E.L.I.T.E.) group is to assist individuals in their personal growth and development with emphasis on five core elements”.

Purpose, inclusion, empowerment and ethics are co-mingled into a process that is made relevant to every day principles.

In the interview, Pathan explained, “Our goal is to estab-

lish an effective leadership program at San Quentin through a rigorous curriculum and workshop that transforms the individual's thinking and behavior, transitioning him to society more effectively.”

that are incorporated in our leadership paradigm,” Pathan said.

The program wants its participants to:

Understand major concepts of emotional intelligence [definition: the ability to maintain relationships using self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social skills.]

- Use leadership and emotional intelligence assessment to gauge an individual's leadership potential for strengths and weakness

- Value diversity among individuals and along multifaceted dimensions

- Discuss ethics, values and social responsibility

- Enhance communication and negotiations skills

- Enhance personal leadership and team skills

- Design group activities that integrate principles of interpersonal communication, managerial skills and leadership through emotional intel-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Associate Warden Jeff Lawson addressing the group and guest

the 16-week program include Self-Awareness, Self Management, Social Awareness and Social Skills.

“We endeavor to inculcate in men the concept of leadership based on the concept of service to one's family and community. In addition, these unique skill sets can be used to create transformational leaders who can transition effectively to society at large and act as agents of moral and ethical values,” Pathan explained.

When asked about E.L.I.T.E. and what he got out of the 16-week program, Roosevelt R. Johnson Jr. said, “One of the many lessons I learned is no matter what one's destiny, goals, or agenda in life, be as knowledgeable about it as possible.”

John E. Colbert, another recent graduate said, “For me, honestly, the self-evaluation versus the evaluation of friends and observers, in relationship to how I see myself as a person, had an enormous impact on my life.”

Leaders, who are pioneers, will innovate, experiment, and explore ways to improve the organization. Pathan said, “They treat mistakes as learning experiences. We want our participants to stay prepared

to meet whatever challenges they may confront. The curriculum teaches them to plan projects and break them down into achievable steps, creating opportunities for small wins.”

Colbert said, “Sometimes, as a leader, we have to be silent in order to listen to ourselves, to inspire ourselves and others by

According to Hesselbein & Shineski, co-authors of the Relational Leadership Model, “Leaders promote learning in at least three ways: through their own learning on a personal level, by helping others in their units [organizations] learn, and by shaping and contributing to an organizational



Photo by Sam Hearn

Marie Rodesilla, Minh Tran and Vivienne Florendo

being concerned and not indifferent, being kind and compassionate, but being firm, honest and patient.”

Al-amin Davis McAdoo enjoyed the Relationship Leadership Model. “This was most helpful in my development stage of becoming a good leader. While in the process of developing into a leader, commitment must be present within us and the willingness to take actions by identifying our goals and what we intend to accomplish.”



Photo by Sam Hearn

Marie Rodesilla, Al-amin Davis McAdoo, Vivienne Florendo and Atik Pathan



Photo by Sam Hearn

Marie Rodesilla, Eduardo Gonzalez and Vivienne Florendo

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Andre Batten told Pathan “Before taking this class, my understanding of what a leader was, I would say, was warped and misguided. I felt through influences of others, that a leader had to always be firm, leading with an iron fist; that whatever the leader said was law, heard and followed without the need of seeking any advice from others that was part of the establishment.”

culture that promotes learning.”

Thomas “Shakur” Ross, the Executive Clerk of E.L.I.T.E. and a two time participant in this self-help program, said, “This program has enhanced my communication and listening skills. “It has given me an opportunity to assess my own self-worth. I am a much more confident leader now.”

Ross is a strong believer in Nelson Mandela's Eight Lessons of leadership. One of Mandela favorite parables described how he loved to reminisce about his boyhood and his lazy afternoons herding cattle. He would say, “You can only lead them from behind.”

“E.L.I.T.E. has given me an awareness of personal gratification and an awareness of self-evaluation that I apply to my own personal leadership skills,” said Ross.

Contact the Muslim Chapel for additional information.

Asked On The Line

What Career Path Would You Choose?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

National celebrations observed in March include Irish-American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, American Red Cross Month, National Frozen Food Month, and Talk with Your Teenager about Sex Month. Moreover, March brings Day-light-Savings Time, the beginning of Lent, Saint Patrick's Day and the beginning of Spring on March 20, a fresh start for the year. So what would the men in blue do if they could start over with a clean slate?

"Asked on the Line" conducted brief informal interviews with mainliners and asked, "If you could have any career you want—time and resources not an issue—what would it be? In addition to your success, to which community would you give back to or what charitable causes would you support?"

The desires and intentions of the men on the mainline were impressive!

Darnell Hill would choose to be a sociologist and work with urban youth.

"I would give back to urban communities by working with adolescents ages 12 and up, especially those with PTSD," said Hill.

Jesus Flores said that he would like to go to medical school and become a physician.

"I would give poor people reduced fee or free medical care,

depending on their financial circumstances. Too many poor families, especially immigrant families, have little or no access to reasonable medical care," said Flores.

Cleo Cloman would become a professional baseball player.

"I would focus on communities that are less fortunate. Money is not everything. Some communities have been destroyed because of money. Support uplifts a community. I would support them with leadership, community building, unselfishness, patience, focus, and determination," said Cloman.

Bernard Moss and Adriel Ramirez would study the culinary arts.

Moss said, "I would be a chef in a four-star restaurant. I would give back to urban communities and I would want to teach chef skills to mostly at-risk youth and teach skills to help them move on and be successful in life."

Ramirez would study to be a chef and work at a fancy restaurant. "After I am a successful chef at a restaurant, I would love to give back by helping poor families," said Ramirez.

Valeray Richardson would operate a youth center.

"I feel that our youth of today have no place to go, so they turn to the streets. They need a place where they feel safe, with positive role models. I would then give back by helping my community. I feel that I tore it down under a false belief system. Now, I

owe my community and I would help build it back up by helping the youth," said Richardson.

Juan Arballo would study to be an electrician.

"I would support children with mental disabilities. By offering my time and, if possible, economic support, I would like to create a safe environment within their surroundings and places for them to go. I would also help create awareness for children with disabilities," said Arballo.

Michael Tyler wants to be a Big Brother or an Uncle. "I want to be a Big Brother or an Uncle as a career. I want to be the support to all whenever I am needed. I want to create a system that reaches all communities," said Tyler.

John Neblett wants a career as a poet, songwriter, playwright and actor.

According to Neblett, all of his career choices are also worthy causes. Neblett said he would be all of the above with "human liberty and dignity being the primary cause."

Orlando Harris would love a career as a basketball coach. He would be open to coaching "young men at the collegiate or professional level," said Harris. He would give back to Alameda County, specifically the City of Oakland. "I would love to help women who have had violence committed against them or victims of violent crime. I would want to help by offering coun-

seling, safe haven housing, and creating a network of support to help women regain their lives," said Harris.

Alexei Ruiz would choose to be either a soccer coach or a counselor. Upon becoming successful with his career, he would work with young children because they are the "future of the country." Ruiz said, "I would

begin by raising awareness with the parents about the importance of maintaining a close relationship with solid lines of communication, and when necessary, teach them some parenting skills. Then, I would work with the children; to try to maximize their potential and develop or nourish their self-esteem and teach them strong work ethics."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Prisoner Responds to S.Q. News Before His Passing

Bill Lambie was featured in the December 2013 edition of San Quentin News. After CDCR approved his compassionate release, the Superior Court judge hearing the matter refused to let him out. He was subsequently transferred to a Hospice in Vacaville. Bill died shortly after we received these letters.

To the Editor-in-Chief:

I hope this gets to you O.K. I'm doing fine so far. We live in Pajamas and robes—very kick back.

Right now, there are 13 of us in the Hospice. There is room for 17 total. The food is great and the beds are adjustable hospital beds. I have a "sleep number" mattress with a little compressor that keeps the firmness where you set it, and a four drawer to keep my stuff in. They've furnished us with televisions. In the common room, we have a refrigerator, microwave, icemaker, and an instant hot water unit for coffee—etc. Of course, it's air conditioned and heated.

Dear Steve,
Thank you for the copies of the S.Q. News, I really appreciate it. Anita got her five copies and is mailing them out to my family.

Give my regards to Arnulfo, Boston, Juan, Luke and the rest of the gang at the paper for me.

I'm very comfortable here, the care is very good here. when we're full, the total population is 17, right now there are 14 of us.

thank you for your consideration,

Best regards, Bill Lambie



File Photo

Bill Lambie

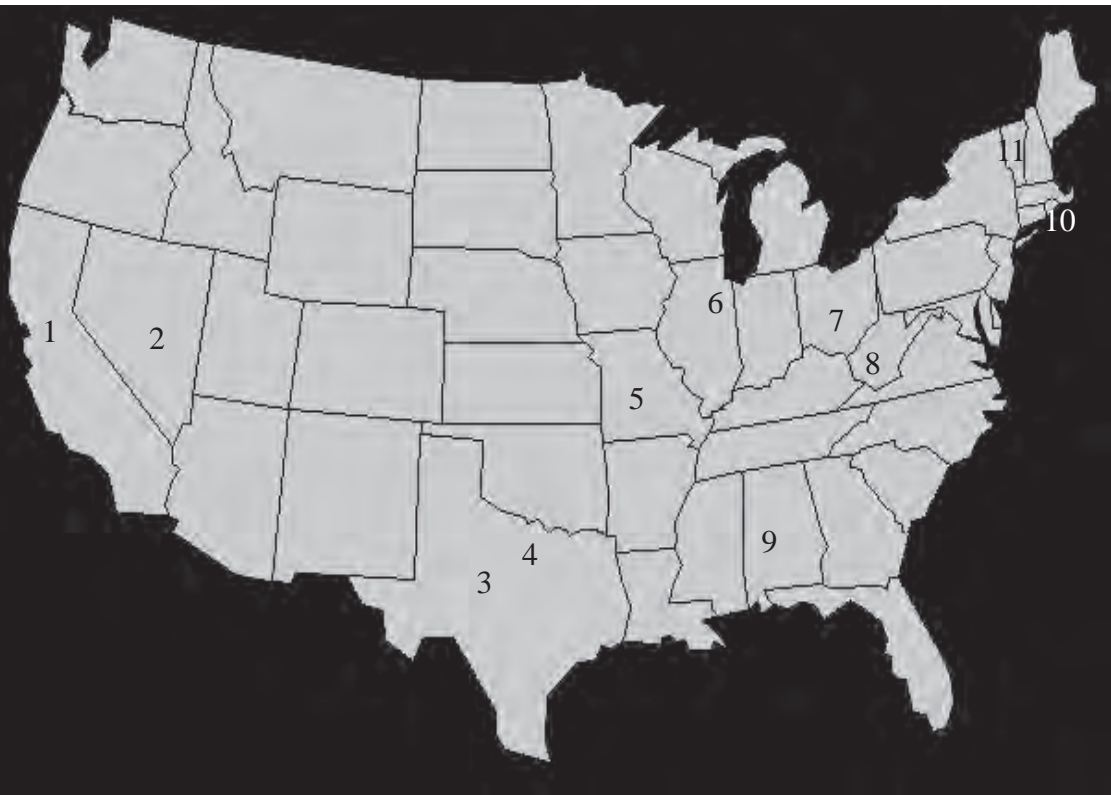
1. Sacramento—Ralph Michael Yeoman,66, died while awaiting execution at San Quentin State Prison for a 1988 murder in Sacramento County, reports The Associated Press. Yeoman was sentenced to death in 1990 for the first-degree murder, kidnap and robbery of 73-year-old Doris Horrell. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1978, 14 California inmates have been executed, while 63 have died from natural causes and 23 by suicide, the AP reports.

2. Nevada—Elko County now permits the sheriff to charge detainees for food and medical care. The County jail charges \$6 a day for meals, \$10 for each doctor visit and \$5 for initial booking into the jail. Those without funds would accrue a negative balance even after they are released.

3. Texas—State prison reforms have eliminated the need to build 17,000 more beds, saving taxpayers some \$3 billion, reports Chuck DeVore of the Austin-based Texas Public Policy Foundation. DeVore said the reforms have been achieved without reducing sentences.

4. Dallas—Police officials report 10 consecutive years of crime reduction in the city. According to Police Department numbers, violent crime has dropped 50 percent since 2003. Murders dropped from 154 in

News Briefs



2012 to 142 in 2013. In 2003, there were 226 murders in the city. Burglaries and thefts were also down. However, sexual assaults went up 13 percent in 2013 after significant drops during the last 10 years.

5. Missouri—A federal appeals court ruled "that if the inmates' lawyers can't point to a more humane execution than lethal injection – such as hanging or firing squad – they are not

entitled to discover more about the pharmacy hired by Missouri to make the drugs for the injections," reports Jeremy Kohler @post-dispatch.com.

6. Chicago—Homicides fell 18 percent from 503 in 2012 to 415 in 2013, according to The Christian Science Monitor. Shootings dropped 24 percent.

7. Columbus, Ohio—The inmate population is projected to reach a record 51,601 by June

30, reports Cleveland.com. That figure is 4,100 more than officials predicted in 2012. By 2019, the population is expected to reach 53,484.

8. Charleston, W.Va.—The state is seeking to send as many as 400 inmates now in its jails to an out- of-state private prison in Beattyville, Ky, owned by Corrections Corporation of America, according to West Virginia MetroNews Network.

9. Montgomery, Ala.—As a result of "a history of unabated staff-on-prisoner sexual abuse and harassment," as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the state is bringing in a nationally recognized consulting group to implement reforms, reports The Associated Press. The DOJ report claimed guards "assaulted inmates, coerced inmates into sex, inappropriately watched inmates in the showers and bathrooms and were verbally abusive to inmates," according to the AP.

10. Cranston, R.I.—The Americans Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island has filed suit against the city of Cranston, claiming that the city's redistricting plan is counting incarcerated people in its prison as if they are all residents of Cranston, reports the ACLU. The lawsuit alleges, "because those incarcerated were counted as Cranston residents, three voters in the prison's district have as much voting power as four voters in every other city district, according to Census Bureau data."

11. Vermont—Of the state's approximately 2,000 incarcerated people; more than 500 are shipped out-of-state to Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) private prisons. The CCA prisons offer no rehabilitation, education, housing assistance or other proven methods for reducing recidivism.

Report: Nine States Recognized for Using Alternatives to Incarcerating Juvenile Offenders

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

In a recent report, nine states were commended for their leadership in finding alternatives to incarceration of youth, who have committed serious and violent offenses between 2001 and 2011.

To accomplish these reductions, according to the report by National Juvenile Justice, the nine states:

- Required intake procedures to reduce the use of secure detention
- Closed or downsized secure facilities

Reduced reliance on law enforcement to address behavior issues in schools

- Prevented incarceration for minor offenses
- Restructured finances and responsibilities among states and counties

POLICIES

“States that adopted four or more of these policies included, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Significantly, these states not only reduced youth incarcer-

ation over the time, but also achieved reduction in youth crime, as measured by substantial declines in youth arrests,” the report shows.

REPORT

In the report, “a group of states that have not experienced reduction in their reliance on youth incarceration include Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.” However, they have adopted significant incarceration-reducing policies in recent years.

The causes of the decline identified in the report were “the

fall in youth crime and arrests; a shift in the political climate for juvenile justice issues; the fiscal crises faced by state and county governments; statewide policy changes that reduced reliance on confinement; the research on adolescent brain development and increased acceptance of treatment-based alternatives to youth incarceration.”

FUTURE

To concentrate on future reductions, the report recommended states evaluate the high costs to taxpayers of

confining youth. The report also looks at disruptions of the normal development patterns that would enable youth to grow out of delinquency.

Other factors examined in the report were:

- The affect of future offending
- Lost lifetime earnings of confined youth and lost tax revenue resulting from their reduced incomes
- The financial and emotional toll on the families of incarcerated youth

Sexual victimization and assaults on confined youth by their peers and facility staff.

Healing Squad Helps Rehabilitate Elderly Inmates Through Art

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Caregivers from the University of Southern California made their way inside San Quentin on March 7, bringing a sense of community to a small group of aging prisoners.

The four women, known as the Healing Squad, was led by Aileen Hongo and co-facilitated by Jill Asars, Bethany Davis, and Angela Craddock.

The eclectic group of women hail from all around the nation—New York, Wisconsin, and two Californians.

“We represent the Tingstad Order Adult Counseling Center at USC and we’re supervised by Dr. Anne Katz, Clinical Professor of Gerontology and LCSW,” Hongo said.

The name, Healing Squad, was given to the women by Chaplain Keith Knauf, Direc-

tor of Pastoral Care Services at California Medical Facility.

The Healing Squad toured San Quentin before putting on a mid-morning workshop that uses art as a means to toggle the memories of the older inmates.

Aileen Hongo told the group of about a dozen elderly inmates that the Healing Squad is an avenue in support of the rehabilitative process. “I feel that the older inmates are left out,” she said.

Hongo said art is a very good means of therapy. “A prison setting doesn’t give inmates very many opportunities for intimate conversations amongst yourselves. Art gives people something to talk about.”

Bethany Davis, who works with traumatized children, told the men that her experiences in adult prisons help her do a better job with chil-

dren. “As much that you get out of this, so do we. It’s a deep sense of caring,” Davis said.

“This is more about redemption and remorse,” said Asars.

The Healing Squad has recently visited Vacaville and California Medical Facility to conduct memory workshops— “Each time we come to a prison, it’s a difference experience,” said Asars. “San Quentin is the Harvard of prisons.”

The workshop began by each man introducing himself, saying where they were born, their favorite sports team, and whatever additional information they wanted to share.

Then the participants were given a sheet of paper with a list of 10 items that would appear on a typical shopping list, such as milk, a bunch of carrots, butter, etc. The inmates were asked to study the list.

After a few minutes, the list was taken away. Another sheet was passed to each participant with pictures of the listed items. However, there were about 10 additional items mixed in with the 10 original items. So, the participants were tasked with circling the correct items that were on the shopping list. Only one person got them all right, and she was not an inmate, or a Healing Squad member.

Community volunteer, Kimberly Richman got them all right. Richman was Healing Squad’s escort inside San



“The Pink House” by Anonymous



Photo by Kim Richman

Jill Asars, Bethany Davis, Angela Craddock and Aileen Hongo

Quentin.

The next memory game had each person draw memories of their first home.

After the drawings were finished, each person, including the women of the Healing Squad talked about their drawings and what memories it brought back.

The stories ranged from strict childhood discipline, to one remembering his home address. There were stories of

ranches and farms, suburban houses, and scenic views from bedroom windows.

One inmate said, “I put home-sweet-home on my picture because these were happy days. It takes me away.”

“The purpose for using art -- it’s like a little breath of fresh air,” said Craddock.

At the end of the session, the Healing Squad promised to come back to San Quentin for more workshops.

Elderly Prisoners Eligible for Release Under New Guidelines

‘We’re working as collaboratively as we can, and I want to get the job done’

The L.A. Times reported that about 1,300 elderly prisoners would meet the conditions for release under a new special parole outlined by Gov. Jerry Brown.

According to the article, these inmates qualify because “they are over 60, and have served more than 25 years in prison, but are not sentenced to life without parole.”

Brown also wants to expand parole eligibility for inmates who are sick or mentally impaired, but he emphasized that all “those prisoners would still need to pass muster with state parole commissioners.”

The governor said such parole hearings would likely begin at the two state prisons that house women.

Brown offered these plans in response to the latest three-judge panel’s court order to reduce California’s prison population. “We’re working as collaboratively as we can, and I want to get the job done,” he said.

According to the L.A. Times, “The court appointed agency that oversees prison medical care calculated that 900 prison-

ers meet new parole criteria the state drafted to expand medical parole.”

The health care office estimated 150 individuals, including inmates dying of cancer, could be considered for release within six months.

Brown also plans to achieve further prisoner reductions by increasing “good behavior”

time: allowing inmates to collect up to one day off for every two days served with good behavior. “Currently they are limited to earning one day off for every four days served,” the Times said, estimating that 37 prisoners who have accrued additional time off for good behavior could be freed within months.

—By Charles David Henry

Merrill Lynch Uses New Financial Tool to Provide Opportunities for Paroled Prisoners

By R. Malik Harris
Staff Writer

Bank of America Merrill Lynch is using a new financial tool to help fight to keep people from going back to prison. The bank has raised \$13.5 million through Social Impact Bonds hoping to prepare those released from prison with skills that would keep them out of jails and prisons, according to Robert Milburn writing for *PENTA Magazine*. Social Impact Bonds are investment opportunities that may produce a profit for

private investors, if successful. Tina Rosenberg of the *Opinionator* first reported on the bonds in Peterborough, London. Government agencies, historically short on cash for social programs, guaranteed private investors a return on investment bonds for programs that produce results, according to Rosenberg.

INVESTMENTS

Government agencies repay private investors their principle investment, plus a profit as social programs achieve mea-

surable goals. If goals are not reached, the government pays nothing. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was the first to bring the new approach to America, according to Milburn. In 2012, Bloomberg tackled recidivism rates among incarcerated youth with a program introduced at Rikers Island, New York City's massive jail system. Bloomberg's proposal for his ABLE (Adolescent Behavioral Learning Experience) program provided "evidence-

based intervention to 16-to-18-year olds in the Department of Correction's custody at Rikers Island and after release in the community." **BONDS** However, the Bank of America deal is thought to be important for the future of Social Impact Bonds in America, according to *PENTA Magazine*. The financial structure of the Bank of America deal places most of the risk on Bank of America and not on a foundation or the government. This

structure makes the deal more like a true investment rather than a charitable donation, according to Milburn. If the Bank of America Social Impact Bond proves to be profitable, more wealthy investors may utilize this method to fund effective programs while weeding out less effective programs. Additionally, the pool of corporate and wealthy private investors could increase pumping much-needed private funds into social programs facing cutbacks from government sponsors.

Prison Overpopulation Send Inmates Out-of-State

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In 2010, the 2.2 million people incarcerated in prisons and jails represented more than a 500 percent increase from 1972. As a justification to relieve the resulting overcrowding, prison officials have sent more than 10,500 inmates to out-of-state private prisons, according to *Locked up & Shipped Away*, by *Grassroots Leadership*. From 1990 to 2011, the number of inmates housed in private prisons in the U.S. increased 1,684 percent. In 1990, people incarcerated out-of-state averaged 7,771. That number grew to 130,941 by Dec. 31, 2011.

“The most punitive aspect of incarceration is physical separation, with prisoners and their families simultaneously enduring the punishment of incarceration”

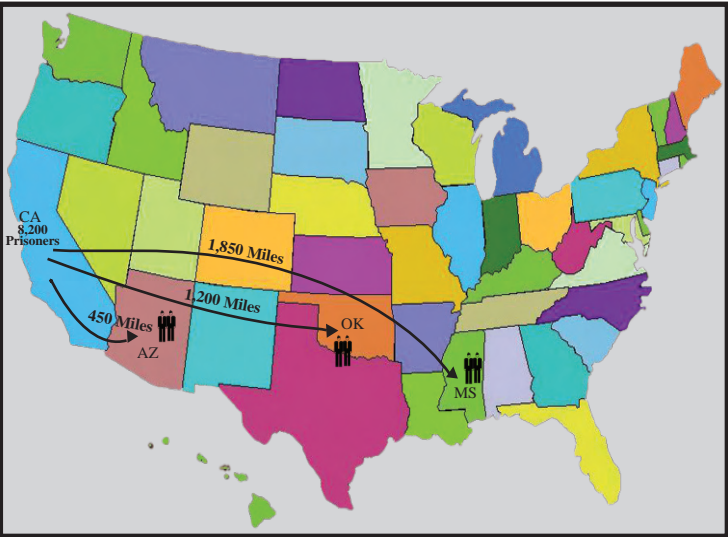
Grassroots Leadership reports that inmates are shipped from approximately 450 miles to nearly 3,000 miles away from their homes. “Scholars argue the most punitive aspect of incarceration is physical separation, with prisoners and their families simultaneously enduring the punishment of incarceration,” *Grassroots Leadership* reports. “Undoubtedly, this punishment is exacerbated when prisoners are shipped from their home state.” An interstate inmate transfer, or transferring incarcerated people to out-of-state prisons, “is detrimental criminal justice policy that hurts families,” *Grassroots Leadership* finds. It hinders rehabilitation by lessening the ties of inmates to

their families and communities, which compromises rather than enhances the public good, the report concludes. According to research by *Vera Institute of Justice*, incarcerated adults “who have strong family ties fare better in prison and pose less of a risk to public safety when they return to the community.” *Grassroots Leadership* cites a *New York Times* exposé, “The Nation: Bartering Inmate Futures,” where both prisoner advocates and prison officials agree that the practice of transferring prisoners out-of-state ‘defies sound theory.’’ Nevertheless, private for-profit companies portray inmates as a “commodity,” hence perpetuating a business-like assessment in how to treat them that *Grassroots Leadership* says, “intensifies our nation’s mass incarceration crisis.” Corrections Corporation of America co-founder Tom Beasley advertises that the company was founded on the principle that you could sell prisons “just like you were selling cars or real estate or hamburgers.”

The two largest private prison companies, CCA and GEO Group (formerly Wackenhut Corrections), earned combined revenue of more than \$3.2 billion in 2012, according to *Grassroots Leadership*. *Grassroots Leadership* examined the out-of-state transfer policies of California, Vermont, Idaho, and Hawaii, along with West Virginia’s plan to move up to 400 of its inmates to private out-of-state prisons. In 2012, the annual cost to house a California inmate out-of-state was \$45,339, according to *Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice*. The 2012 cost to house California inmates out-of-state was \$318 million, according to *The Future of California Corrections*.

An inspector general audit of inmates transferred from California to out-of-state prisons in 2010 showed that the private prisons operated under a severe lack of staff screening, training, and protocol, *Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice* reports. “For example, the audit found

that the hiring process [for staff] does not include a comprehensive criminal background and arrest history review. The conditions in the facilities were also found to be inadequate, with many inmates placed in segregation for 12 months or more, without access to education, treatment programs or exercise.” In 2011, Hawaii housed almost a third of its approximately 6,000 inmates in Arizona, at a cost of more than \$40 million, according to a study by *Urban Institute*.



It cost West Virginia about \$65 a day to house inmates in-state, according to *West Virginia MetroNews Network*. The cost for 400 inmates would be \$9.5

million. The state’s Corrections Commissioner Jim Rubenstein said, a private prison’s bid “close to that would peak their interest.”

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
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Education Dept. / SQ News
San Quentin, CA 94964
(No street address required)
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Olympic Gold Medalist Visits San Quentin

SPORTS

By Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor
Sports Writer

For any American, it would be a thrill to hold an Olympic gold medal. For the men of the San Quentin 1,000-Mile Club, it was an honor for Fast Eddie Hart to bring his into the prison and share his experience with them.

Hart won the Gold medal running the 4x4 relay in the 1972 Olympics.

"I want to say is that it is a pleasure and an honor to stand here and speak to you men and women. Coming into San Quentin is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life," said Hart to the crowd of long distance runners and the sponsors of the track club. "Ever since I was five years old, I was fast. At five years old, I was faster than all the kids my age and most the kids a little older than I was. From childhood, I have received accolades for (my speed), and I loved it."

Hart made international news in the summer of 1972 when he missed his semi-final race and couldn't compete in the 100 meter sprint due to a mix-up in the racing schedules.

"I remember going back to the hotel room, standing in the shower for about an hour and a half. I think I cried just about every minute I was in that shower," he told the group.

"However, my parents didn't raise a quitter. My father instilled in me that I wasn't to cry over spilled milk, and not to have sour grapes. I also had to get myself together because I had a relay race to run. My personal dream may have passed, but my team needed me to anchor the relay race. So, even though I was in pain – and everyone in my hometown was grieving inside with me – I had to let that go and refocus on my team," said Hart.

Hart stood in a chilly room inside The Old Laundry building, on the prison grounds and reflected on his path to the Olympics.

"Jesse Owens was a big hero of mine, setting four world records, and winning four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin; also 'Bullet' Bob Hayes in the '64 Olympics when he broke Jesse Owens' record. He was a hero of mine as well."

Hart said he made his mind up to be an Olympian while still



Photo by Steve Emrick

The Thousand Mile Club runners with sponsors: Diana Fitzpatrick, Frank Rouna and Jill Freeman

in junior high school.

"I could see my name in lights: 'Eddie Hart, Olympic Gold Medalist.' I spent the next ten years putting myself in a position to achieve that goal," Hart stated, pulling the Olympic gold medal from his pocket. It shimmered in his hand.

"Coming out of junior college, I was ranked number 1 in the country. I had offers from several of the top universities in the land, but I chose University of California, Berkeley. Part of the reason I chose Cal Berkeley it was close to home. It also had something to do with the fact that my then girlfriend (and future wife) Gwen Carter was attending Cal Berkeley," Hart said with a boyish smile and gleam in his eye. Hart and Carter have been married for 40 years.

"Just three weeks prior to the Olympic trials in 1972, I pulled a muscle at the Kennedy Games, one of the major track meets in the country. I was worried if it would heal before the Olympic trials. When the trials came around, I hadn't come out of the (racing) blocks in three weeks. I was really worried about injuring myself again and missing the Olympics altogether."

His message about overcoming adversity was well received by those in attendance.

"Just the fact that he came

into San Quentin to speak to us says a lot about the man behind the medal," said one club runner. "It puts emphasis to his overall message about giving back, and the responsibility of being a celebrity and an American icon."

"What I was most impressed about was his message that true strength is overcoming adversity," said Steve Emrick. Emrick is the community partnership manager. "The message that character is developed by how you overcome hardship and not necessarily the successes is tailored for these men (of San Quentin)."

Hart began a foundation ten years ago called the Hart All In One Foundation. "I have been living with my family in Pittsburgh for the past 12 years. Now that I have achieved my goals, I believed it was time for me to give back and to help the youth in mine, and the surrounding communities, to develop and attain their goals."

Ralph Ligons, a childhood friend of Hart, said, "Growing up, Eddie was always serious. I mean, more serious than any other kid in our neighborhood. He was focused and he knew what he wanted." Hart and Ligons have known each other since they were both in elementary school. They have

remained close friends even to this day.

"I remember when we were growing up, Eddie used to chase us -- he was faster than everybody," Ligons laughed as he recalled the memory, sharing the moment with those in attendance. "If he caught you? He'd give you a Charlie-horse in your thigh! But he never caught me."

Ligons also competed in the Olympic trials in 1972, and made it to the semi-finals. He lost to his friend in the 100 meter. "I lost, but I lost to the fastest man on the planet (at that time) and that's not a bad thing," said Ligons, a former Sacramento State College All-American track star from 1971-74.

Hart answered questions from those in attendance, and took pictures with the 1,000-Mile Club members and sponsors.

When asked about talking with convicted criminals about difficulties, Hart was reflective.

"My path to the Olympics began 10 years before I stood on the podium and actually bent at the waist to receive the medal. It began with a dream. I want these men in here to know that they have the capacity to still dream and achieve those dreams despite their current circumstance."



Photo by Steve Emrick

Diana Fitzpatrick, Kevin Rumon, Eddie Hart, Frank Rouna and Jill Freeman

Kings Defeat The Bittermen in Season Opener, 69-53

In a quest to repeat the success of the last two winning seasons, the San Quentin Kings began the 2014 basketball season with 69-53 victory over The Bittermen.

"Hey, what can I say? This is how you want to run a successful program," said Kings head coach Orlando Harris. "You want to start a season with a win. It allows you to continue to build from last season."

The Kings were led on the court by starting point guard Brian "The Landlord" Asey, who put a double-double in the books (16 points, 10 assists) to start this season. "You know how I play the game: just the

fundamentals," said Asey after the game. He scored 10 of his points in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter surge killed off The Bittermen's comeback. They had gotten as close as within four points in the third.

Starting center P. "Strange" Walker also came to play with his hard hat on, getting a double-double as well, scoring 10 points, and grabbing a game-leading 15 rebounds, six of them offensive.

Power forward Thaddeus "Beast" Fleeton dropped 11 points, using low-post moves, including drop steps, a 16-foot fade-away shot, and a series of

quick spin moves to get inside to the rim.

Oris "Sniper" Williams, normally the sixth man, started at the shooting guard position and knocked down 13 points, shooting three for five from behind the three-point line.

The Bittermen had trouble at the gate when two of their players weren't allowed on the grounds. If that wasn't bad enough, the usually short-handed visitors have one favorite player that they pick to play with against the Kings: Jason "Boo" Robinson, Intramural League rebounding leader.

"We looked for Boo, but he didn't show up until after the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

San Quentin King's Brian Asey and Bittermen's Ted Saltviet compete in season-opener

game. Nobody told him we were coming in," said Todd Simms, Bittermen center. "Boo allows me to play at power forward. That guy is a beast on the boards."

Maurice "Optimus Prime" Hanks led The Bittermen with

17 points, three rebounds, and one block. Hanks' is a member of the San Quentin Warriors.

Bittermen Steve S. scored 14, followed by Tim Hall with 13 points in the March 15 game.

—By Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor

Athletes Address The Importance Of Sports and Rehabilitation

By Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor
Sports Writer

San Quentin offers a unique opportunity to advance academically as well as participate in sporting programs. Here, a convicted felon can be on the field, court, or diamond with the CEO of a multi-national company or even a millionaire.

Several San Quentin Student-Athletes were asked how sports impacted their incarceration. Here is what they had to say:

Dwight Kennedy, 39, was convicted of possession of a firearm. He is serving a sentence of 25 to life under California's Three-Strike Law.

Q: How long have you played sports for The Q?

I've played sports since my arrival seven years ago. Baseball (The Giants [4]) and football (All Madden [7])

Q: What makes The Q unique?

San Quentin has excellent academic programs, as well as self-help groups such as No More Tears, VOEG, and IMPACT.

Q: What degrees have you earned while at SQ?

I'm in pursuit of an AA in communication.

Q: What is the main difference between the man nicknamed "Sleepy" who arrived at SQ seven years ago, and the person giving this interview to SQNews?

There has been a significant change. I'm more than just Dwight: I have become a member of society without being in society through the help of volunteers that come in and assist people like me in becoming a changed individual. It's all about rehabilitation to those who have just arrived at the Q. Rehabilitation is being responsible, addressing your personal issues, such as what brought you to prison. Stop blaming others for your personal failings and taking responsibility. Rehabilitation is freedom.

John Windham, 43, was convicted of accessory to second-degree murder and sentenced to a 15-to-life sentence.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Star athletes: Dwight Kennedy, Rafael Cuevas and John Windham

Q: What programs have you taken part in since being at The Q?

I have taken Restorative Justice, the Work, and No More Tears.

Q: Any college or vocational programs?

Yes, I'm in machine shop. I've also signed up for plumbing and computer repair.

Q: In the KTVU interview (9/20/2013), you spoke about second chances and rehabilitation. Can you expand on that a little more?

Well, during our incarceration, some of us have really changed. We grew up and have become rehabilitated. Not only by law – but by right – we deserve a second chance.

Q: What sports programs have you taken part in?

I am playing soccer, football, baseball, basketball –all three leagues- softball.

Q: What do you say to the youth reading this who are thinking about following in your footsteps?

Man! Stay in school. Value family and freedom! And think about the consequences of your actions before you act.

Rafael Cuevas, 31, was convicted of second-degree murder and is serving 16-to-life.

Q: What programs have you taken since your arrival at The Q?

I'm in AA, Project Choice;

Prison Sports Ministries

Q: What about education?

I started in voluntary education, then vocational program – sheet metal; now I'm in Patten College taking intermediate algebra.

Q: What sports programs have you taken part in since being at The Q?

I've played for the SQ Warriors and was head coach in the CBL.

Q: Talk about being a student athlete; have you ever considered yourself as one?

I've been a student-athlete for a long time. It means I am busy. I have a program, and I have a lot to do. It means keeping a lot on my plate, which keeps me focused. It means working, practice, getting used to having little time for outside or unproductive activities and focusing on the bettering of myself.

Q: What is it about The Q that has changed you?

The programs that I attend help me to know myself better. The biggest thing about being ready to return to society isn't what society has for me; it's what I have for society. In my youth, I didn't realize that. Now, I'm learning who I am. I have more to offer because I can identify what it is I have to offer. People here, at The Q, have shown me that you don't have to wait to get ready to re-enter society to be the man that you want to be. There's nothing stopping you from being who you want to be right now, today, in the given circumstances.

Anthony Ammons Jr., 30, convicted of first-degree murder, a gang enhancement, and attempted murder at 16 years old was sentenced to 102-to-life.

Q: What programs have you taken part in since arriving at SQ?

I've taken AA/NA, Project Choice, Peer Health Education, Non-Violent Communication (NVC), No More Tears, Kit Kat (juvenile lifers group), and Restorative Justice.

Q: What sports programs have you taken part in?

I play in the Intramural League and for the SQ Warriors.

Q: What does the "rehabilitation" mean to you?

Rehabilitation means open-

ing my mind to see where I went wrong; seeing what I was doing and how it was harming my community and me. Opening to change, to accept someone else's views and apply them to your life; not to be what they want you to be, but to be a productive citizen. Taking responsibility and accountability. To admit I was wrong.

Q: What education have you involved yourself in?

I am on the waiting list for Patten College; I did get my high school diploma at New Folsom. I'm proud of that because it made me realize that I could accomplish something, and it made my mother proud.

Q: What is it about SQ that seems to have drawn this out of you?

Here, I was able to break myself down. I was headed in that direction, but The Q allowed me to start from scratch and rebuild. There's no racial tension here, no "prison politics" at The Q; it allows the opportunity to sit down and analyze your personal situation.

Q: How does it feel being a student-athlete?

I never really had a chance to experience it. I knew I had some type of talent, but I didn't think people could tell me how to play

sports. Once they put me in a position, I just played, rather than studying the game.

It feels good to be a student/athlete. To not let your talent be bigger than you, but to be taught how to be better with the natural gifts you possess.

Q: Any closing comments to the Readership?

I want to thank the Creator for giving me a voice. Getting 102 years-to-life at 16 years old... some people might just give up, but, once I made it here – at SQ – I realized through the programs that I can be better. Peel back the layers and heal that inner child.

Allan McIntosh, 39 years old, was convicted of possession of a firearm and sentenced 25 years to life under the Three Strikes Law.

Q: How long you been at The Q?

13 months.

Q: What programs have you taken part in since you've been here?

AVP, first level.

Q: And education?

Coastline College, taking business and psychology.

Q: What is it about SQ that has given you a change in attitude about rehabilitation?

The environment around The Q is like no other in the CDCR. You don't have the pressure and stress that go along with prison life here, so you can focus on the betterment of self.

Q: Was it a choice or realignment that brought you to The Q?

Realignment. I wanted to come here because I heard about the education and self help groups.

Q: What sports programs have you taken part in?

Football and basketball.

Q: What does it feel like to be a student/athlete again?

Well, it takes me back me to a time in my youth. Being here, playing sports, and attending Coastline, it's like a college campus all over again (without the girls!).

1000 Mile Club Results

Youth was first as 30-year-old Eddie Herena won The 1000-Mile Club 3-Mile Run with a time of 18:02.

The event at San Quentin started officially at 8:30 a.m. March 7, but Rahsaan Thomas hit the track at 7:13.

"The early bird catches the worm," said Thomas, San Quentin News sports editor. "I had a lot to cover this morning, so I wanted to get out here and knock this down." His time: 28:17.

Abdul Qadiyr Morceli, 32, came in second with a time of 19:05; Brian Ballard, 40, next at 19:52. Rounding out those that finished in less than 20 minutes was Larry Ford, 58. He finished with a time of 19:59.

"I try to make them feel bad," said Ford, smiling. "I'm going to give them a run for their money every time we hit

this track."

Leroy Lucas dropped out of the race after eight laps due to an ankle injury. "I put on too much weight," said Lucas, 38. After resting a few minutes (and limping the rest of the way), he went on to finish with a time of 31:39.

Angel Armengol, 29, finished just over 20 minutes at 20:06. It was his first time running a 3-Mile Run. "It felt good, you know. I feel really good too."

Herena averaged 1:30 per quarter mile, a solid pace for a 1,000-Mile Club runner.

Other racers were: Ramirez, 20:52; Sandoval, 31, 20:55; Williams, 52, 23:17; Moody, 44, 23:29; Gazzeny, 47, 25:16; Hunter, 54, 28:03; Beason, 34, 28:38; Lucas, 38, 31:39; Barnes, 64, did not finish (1.5 Mile).

—By Aaron "Jeddi"

Taylor



Photo by Sam Hearn

Anthony Ammon attempts to block Brian Scalabrine's shot

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2014 NO.5

May 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,873

Judge James Lambden Visits San Quentin

‘I was prevented from expanding my knowledge of prisons’

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

Most people don’t understand the difference between the court system and the prison system, says a retired appeals court judge on a recent visit to San Quentin Prison.

“This is a real monster of a system, and it’s been my experience that because judges preside over court cases, many people believe that the prison and court

systems are the same,” retired District Court of Appeals Judge James Lambden said. “That’s not true—they really are quite different systems.”

Lambden visited San Quentin to discuss the current climate of prison population reduction in California and Proposition 36. Lambden, 64, spoke to a crowd of inmates in San Quentin’s Catholic Chapel on Feb. 7.

Usually the closest a Court of Appeals judge gets to state



Official Photo

Judge James Lambden

prisoners is reading their writs of habeas corpus, Lambden told the group.

“I came here for two reasons:

See *Judge Lambden* on page 17

Victim Offender Education Group Holds Graduation

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

More than 100 inmates and about a dozen community members celebrated the graduation of a group of inmates from San Quentin’s Victim Offender Edu-

cation Group (VOEG) Next Step program on April 16.

The prison’s chapel served as a place of comfort for attending crime victims and offenders alike as the audience acknowl-

See *VOEG* on page 4



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Rochelle Edwards presenting Dave Baker a certificate

Criminal Justice Reformers Praise Affordable Care Act

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has received criticism nationwide, criminal justice reformers say affordable health care for ex-prisoners is an important component to criminal justice.

“One of the biggest pieces of justice reform in a generation was set in place by President Obama,” according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). According to *Newsweek Magazine*, there is no direct connection between the ACA, also known as Obamacare, and jails or prisons.

However, “Obamacare stands to alleviate one of the most troubling aspects of incarceration—how ex-offenders, once released, receive afford-

See *Affordable Care* on page 15

S.Q. Literacy Groups Collaborate And Address Shortage Problems

On April 10, three prison-based literacy groups—Free to Succeed, Project Reach and GED Prep—all struggling for

material and recognition, broke bread in the San Quentin Protestant Chapel, granting their facilitators a chance to interact

and network. They were able to agree on one principle in particular: Educating inmates during their internment translates to a safer community once they are released.

“We lack materials,” said inmate Bobby Evans, organizer of the banquet. There is a serious shortage of everything from paper and pencils to textbooks, he added.

Because of the various programs, “I wanted everyone to see each other, and get to know who’s involved with helping inmates get GEDs,” Evans said.

“The better we are in preparing you in here, the safer we are going to be when you get out,” North Block Associate Warden S. Albritton told the audience. “I believe that second to ‘attitude,’ education is the most important

See *S.Q. Literacy* on page 7



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Lonnie Morris talking with
County Supervisor Keith Carson

Study: U.S. Data Unclear on Imprisoned Population

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

There is no clear indication or definitive number of just how many men, women, and children are imprisoned in the United States – figures vary and are in-constant, because “the data collectors that keep track of (prisoners) is fragmented,” according to a new *Prison Policy Initiative (PPI)* study.

This, according to *PPI*, “makes it hard to get the big picture” for policy makers and others who are new to the criminal justice system.

The *PPI* figures come from:

- The Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities
- The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement
- The Census of Jail Facilities, and Jails of Indian Country
- Military prisons

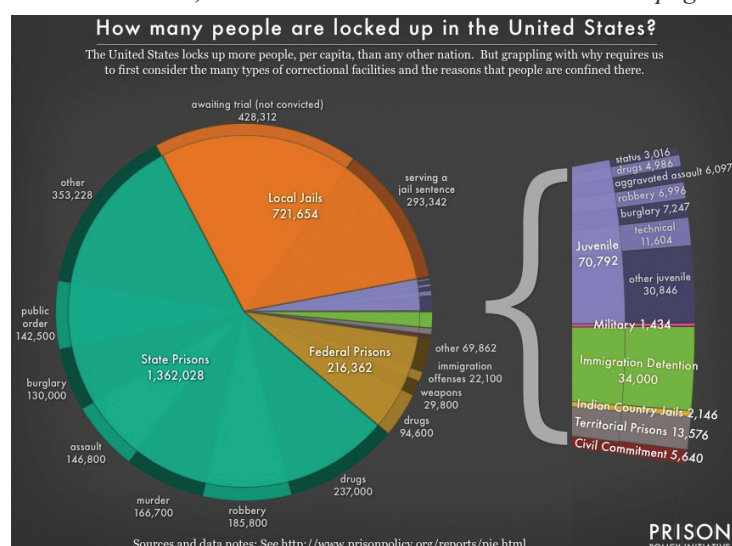
- Immigration detention facilities
- Civil commitment centers in addition, to other places of confinement in U.S. territories.

According to *PPI*’s study published in March, there are 2.4

million people incarcerated in the United States.

“The enormous churn in and out of our confinement facilities underscores how naïve it is to

See *U.S. Inmate* on page 18



Official Photo

President Barack Obama

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Alliance for Change, Anonymous, Bill Anderson, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy D. Blank, Susan Breiding, Bruce and Maris Budner, Kasi Chakravartula*, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Ann Colburn, Joseph Coyle, Kevin Danaher, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Braden Weeks Earp, Barry Eisenberg, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, Patricia Ann Foley, Jesykah Forkash, Amy Friedman, God B. God II, Geraldine Goldberg, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, William Hagler, Jordana Hall, Jun Hamamoto*, Danielle Harris, Suzanne Herel*, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Douglas Horngrad, Kathleen Jackson*, Jeremy Johnson, Monica Johnson, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Chad Kempel, Anthony Kenrick*, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Linda Maffrice*, John Mallen*, Rosemary Malvey*, Mary McAndrew, Edwin McCauley, June McKay*, Ray Menaster, Eugenia Milito, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Melanie Nasson-Kurgold, Adriana Navas, Leslie Neale, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Caitlin O'Neil, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Parish, J.S. Perrella*, Quilley Powers*, Martin Ratner*, Maria Rivero, James Robertson*, Lois and Steven Rockoff, Manuel Roman Jr., Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Jennifer Rudnall, Teresa Samuelson, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Ameeta Singh*, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, David Spilker*, Nancy Street*, Josh Taylor, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Lori Vasick*, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Jeanne Windsor, Forrest Woolman, Frank Zimring.

*Have made more than one donation

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
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BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

The San Quentin Community Shows Appreciation to Dr. Julie Lifshay

By Phoeun You
Design Editor

Eight years ago, Julie Lifshay PhD, ventured inside San Quentin for the first time, hoping to help prisoners improve their lives. Today, she continues to contribute time and effort by working as an educator and a volunteer to the betterment of countless inmates.

In 2006, Lifshay met Jody Lewen PhD, executive director of the Prison University Project (PUP), at a presentation at University of California, Berkeley. Shortly after, Lifshay began volunteering for PUP, tutoring/teaching basic math, algebra, geometry, statistics, and public health.

While teaching at PUP, Lifshay recalled, "I was clueless about the injustice in our justice system. I had the potential to be aware of it, but I chose like other people to ignore it."

She further expressed concerns about the way incarcerated people are viewed. "Violence is a wide spectrum. The range between someone with multiple murders and someone with a burglary is wide," Lifshay said. "However, the public considers it all as 'violent,' which results in unfair sentencing. The law clumps up everyone together, whether they committed a serious act of violence or not."

Lifshay said she realizes prisoners who are enrolled with PUP have the potential to be good citizens. "Prisoners are normal people. They are smart and insightful."

Despite a positive view of PUP students, Lifshay said she is aware of being in a prison environment and is careful not to get too comfortable.

"You don't want to be seen as a pushover. You have to draw the line," said she said, adding, "You also have to leave a part of yourself outside these walls, which is something I had to grow accustomed to."

Lifshay said she has spent weekends with other volunteers in support of Proposition 36 to change the Three Strikes Law by collecting signatures

and tweeting to create awareness. Proposition 36 was passed last November, allowing some non-violent Three-Strikers the chance to ask a judge to reduce their life sentence.

In 2009, Centerforce hired Lifshay to teach prisoners about HIV, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and other health-related issues in a program called Peer Health Education. Inmate Kris Himmelberger, a graduate of the Peer Health program says he enjoyed the class. "I learned about high risk factors and communicable diseases. The most important thing I got out of the class was that a little prevention could save my life."

"Her dedication to Center-

demo day presentation. "The Last Mile helps change people's lives," said Lifshay.

Lifshay has helped TLM entrepreneurs design their own business ideas.

"Dr. Lifshay has a big heart and I've seen it shine through on many of the occasions during my interactions with her. I've seen her show up at San Quentin in places like The Last Mile, TRUST and Centerforce," said Tommy Winfrey, a graduate of TLM.

Jorge Heredia, a second-generation TLM graduate, describes Lifshay as "very valuable to The Last Mile program as a mentor. Since I became a part of The Last Mile, I have witnessed her dedication in helping the partic-

ipants prepare for demo day. She helped me tremendously with developing my five-minute pitch presentation for the Last Mile. I am very grateful to her for everything she's done."

Al Amin McAdoo, who recently graduated from TLM said, "I was extremely nervous before going on stage to deliver my Public Outcry pitch, but what put me at ease was remembering Julie's words, reminding me to speak to the audience as if I was having a conversation with one of my family members, or a close friend."

"When I was struggling with my business idea, Julie's encouragement gave me the strength to push myself harder," said Jerome Boone, another TLM graduate.

After the last TLM demo day, Lifshay said, "I felt

very proud." She said, watching the graduates overcome their fears was very rewarding.

When asked what she would tell her friends about prisoners, Lifshay said, "I think people need to meet the people inside and see it firsthand." She said everyone should experience volunteering and see the rehabilitation that transpires within the prison walls.

Lifshay said working inside San Quentin has given her a better perspective of how precious life is. "I have learned to a much greater degree to appreciate what I have."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Julie Lifshay at the annual TRUST Health fair

force and the men at San Quentin is like no other. One thing I can say about Julie is that she cares with all her heart," said Sonya Shah, Restorative Justice Program director of Insight Prison Project.

Lifshay has become involved with other programs like, Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST) and The Last Mile (TLM).

TLM is a six month tech-incubator program that teaches prisoners about technology, helps them to develop a business plan, create a verbal pitch, and turn it into a five-minute

Santa Cruz Debates Whether to Expand Jail Capacity or Reduce Inmate Population

‘County jails were never intended to house people for a longer period of time’

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

A controversy is brewing in Santa Cruz over whether to reduce jail populations or expand capacity for more prisoners. “Prison reform advocates are pushing back against the expansion, arguing that instead of increasing the number of detainees a facility can hold, it is time to decrease the money and work on creating and funding community programs instead,” said Katie Rucke of *MintNews Press*, an independent on-line journalism startup. To ease overcrowding at the Santa Cruz County Jail, the state awarded \$24.8 million to expand the jail and add beds

and job training programs at the Rountree Men’s Facility by 2016. **PUBLIC SAFETY** “It is clear that the need for infrastructure to support the goal of justice realignment throughout the state is critical,” said Susan Mauriello, Santa Cruz chief administration officer. “These funds will support the work of the counties to achieve the goals of justice realignment and improve public safety as a result.” Sheriff’s Lt. Shea Johnson commented, “This expansion would be good for inmates. County jails were never intended to house people for a longer period of time, so we need to come up with solu-

tions.” “Community programs are more effective and less costly than incarceration,” said Tash Nguyen of Sin Barras, a local grassroots group dedicated to advocating for prison abolition and alternatives to incarceration. “The majority of people sitting in the county jail are sitting in there pre-trial. They have not even been convicted, yet, they simply don’t have the funds to bail themselves out,” said Courtney Hanson, a protestor with Sin Barras. “Instead of constructing additional space for incarceration and beefing up funding for social support programs operated inside of jails and prison, we should spend our money on programs that

would help keep people from being incarcerated in the first place,” according to an editorial in the *City On A Hill Press*. “Santa Cruz officials have more of a poverty issue on their hands than a crime wave,” commented local activist Courtney Houston. **FUNDING** Under Gov. Jerry Brown’s prison realignment program, \$500 million would be distributed to California counties to handle low-level offenders who formerly were sent to state prisons. Under this legislation, Santa Cruz would receive \$25 million for housing 94 inmates. It is currently housing about 100 inmates at its Rountree facility.

According to *MintNews Press*, “The main county jail in Santa Cruz has been housing about 322 inmates in its 311-person capacity facility. Due to the overcrowding, two of the jail’s units have portable plastic beds on the floor instead of bunk beds.” Critics of the expansion claim “an expansion to the Rountree facility would only amount to a Band-Aid covering the real problem causing overcrowding in jails across the state.” Kati Teague, another member of Sin Barras, told reporters “No amount of extra beds will ever fix the broken policies that send so many to jail. We need to rethink our approach to incarceration – not double down on it.”

Report: Gov. Brown’s Realignment Plan Causes ‘New Class’ of Inmates

Is the state really addressing the issue of reducing the population?

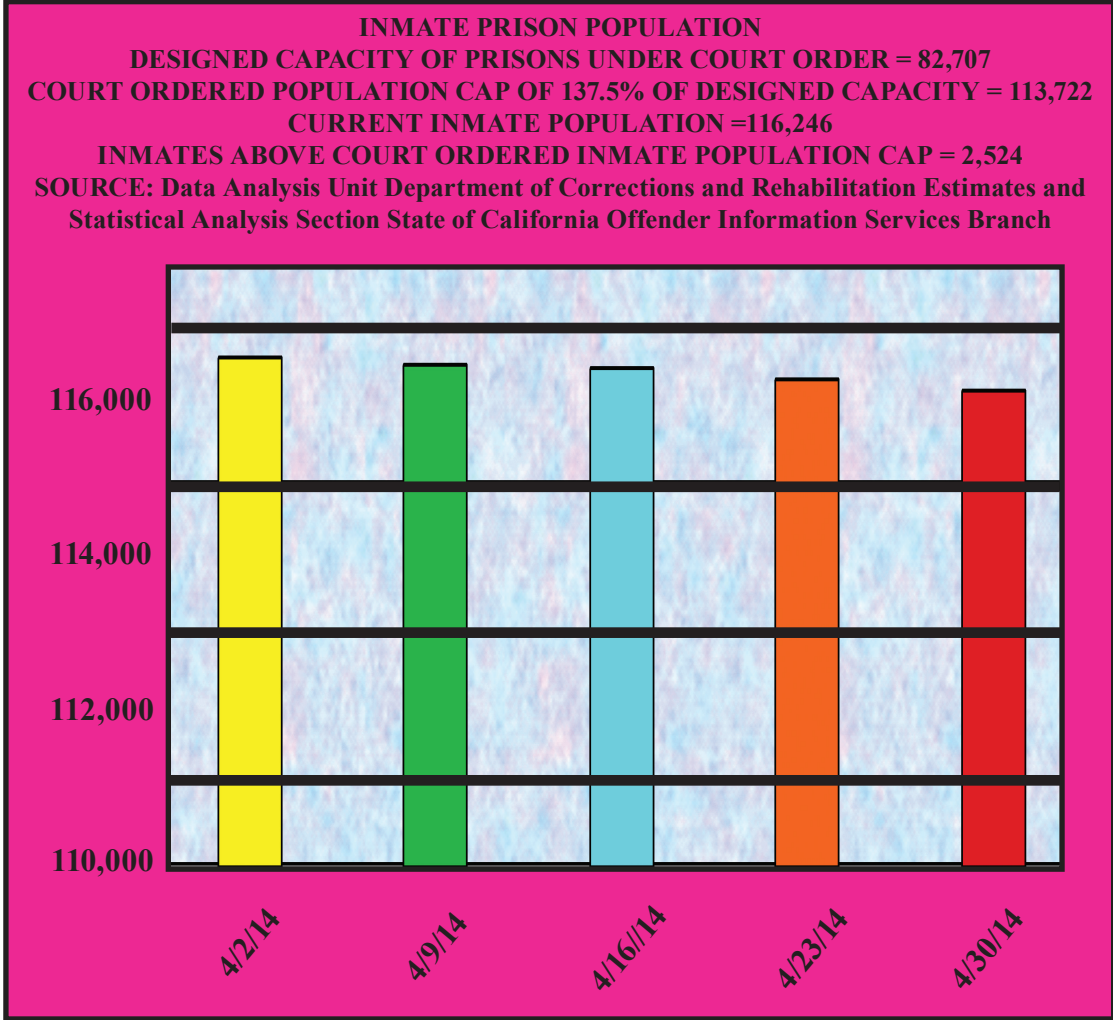
By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

California inmates serving sentences that exceed one year used to be sent to state prison. However, Gov. Jerry Brown’s solution to prison overcrowding, by shifting low-level felons to county jails, has created a new class of inmates, according to Arvin Temkar of the *Monterey County Weekly*. Because of Brown’s prison population reduction plan, called Realignment AB 109, convicted felons can now serve longer sentences in local county jails.

“It’s a question of having access to self-help programs, personal TVs/radios”

Temkar focuses on the story of James Russell Scott, a convicted felon. Scott is serving a seven-year sentence in Monterey County Jail for a drug violation. One of the issues raised by Temkar is the lack of space that is available for rehabilitation programs in county jails, which were not built to handle long-term stays. Scott, a confessed drug addict who has been in prison before, says that he would have preferred to go to prison. He opined that the medical facilities in prison are better than

those in county jails and that prison has better food. Some inmates agree that prison is a better place to do time than county jail. “It’s a question of having access to self-help programs, personal TVs/radios, access to an outside yard of recreation, family visiting, contact visiting and more,” said Anthony Ammons, a San Quentin inmate serving a life sentence. County Sheriff Scott Miller expressed support for more funding for jail programs. At the same time, he added, his facility is not equipped for longer sentences. “It’s one thing to have someone here for four years and it’s quite another to have someone here for 24 years,” Miller said. Critics of the state’s incarceration system are not particularly satisfied with the state’s handling of realignment. According to Temkar, they argue that the state is just shuffling inmates from one lock-up facility to another. They don’t see the state as really addressing the issue of reducing the population, reducing jail sentences and the financing of rehabilitation programs. Tash Nguyen, an activist with Sin Barras, a prison reform group, said that the proliferation of jails only creates a larger landscape where jails exist. Longer stints in jails or the building of more jails will not relieve the state of its overcrowding, nor does it ensure public safety. Activists contend that more money should be spent on treatment facilities and prevention and that the community must become more involved in this endeavor.



San Diego Implements a Unique Way To Handle County Jail Prisoner Influx

By Seth Rountree
Journalism Guild Writer

San Diego County has implemented new strategies to accommodate the influx of prisoners created by the state Realignment plan. Assembly Bill 109, Realignment, shifts non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual offenders from doing time in state prison to county jails. In 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Realignment into law after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state’s overcrowded prisons could not deliver adequate healthcare to inmates, and ordered the inmate prison population to be capped at 137.5 percent of

designed capacity, or about 112,000 inmates. The state has until February 2016 to meet the cap. Since Realignment came into effect, about 2,500 offenders have been shifted to San Diego County jails. Officials in San Diego county say they expect another 5,500 offenders, the *Fallbrook Bonsall Village News* reported. San Diego County Sheriff, Bill Gore said that his department has modernized the way it handles realigned offenders, the *Village News* reported. The changes include building more housing for lower-level prisoners, installing GPS monitoring systems and adding supervised work furlough programs.

The county is being proactive, said Mack Jenkins, chief probation officer of the San Diego county probation department, to the *Village News*. “Currently, 80 percent of inmates have substance-abuse problems,” Jenkins said. “We are making sure we have drug treatment, rehab, and work-readiness programs to try and address these problems.” “If a probationer meets certain criteria, they may be able to get off probation a little earlier than the usual three-year term,” said Jenkins. “They would have to demonstrate a history of clean drug tests, no violations, have achieved their case plan goals and be employed or enrolled in school.”

Report: Violence Increases in County Jails

'Some jails have seen violence dip, but the trend is toward more assaults'

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Ten counties in California, which account for 70 percent of the state's jail population, have experienced an increase in jail violence due to Realignment, according to the *Associated Press*.

The *Associated Press* reported county jails hold the majority of local inmates in California. There was "a surge in the number of inmate fights and attacks on jail employees," according to assault records.

REALIGNMENT PLAN

Because of the state's Realignment plan to reduce the state prison population, thou-

sands of offenders, who would have been sent to state prison, are now serving their sentences in county jails.

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Realignment Report, Dec. 2013, "No offender received an early release from prison under Realignment."

"Some jails have seen violence dip, but the trend is toward more assaults since the law took effect on Oct. 1, 2011," the *AP* reported. "The change has shifted many of the same problems the state had experienced to local jails."

According to the *AP*, there were 2,000 more fights among inmates in county lockups in the first year following Realignment than in the previous

year—a 33 percent increase. During the same period, attacks on jail employees also increased.

POPULATION

Los Angeles County, the largest county jail system in the state, experienced an increase of 21 percent in its inmate population. That brought a significant increase in inmate-on-inmate assaults, which are up 44 percent, according to the *AP*.

Los Angeles County jail spokesperson Steve Whitmore said his county's 704 additional assaults can be attributed to "sheer numbers," as its average daily population soared by more than 3,000 inmates after Realignment.

"You're seeing a little more gang influence inside the jails and a little more violence," said San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon. "Certainly, the sophistication level of these inmates is different."

"The violence is just being transferred to the local facilities from the state system," said Fresno County Assistant Sheriff Tom Gattie.

The *AP* reported that Fresno County has seen a 40 percent increase in its population since Realignment took effect, "inmate-on-inmate fights have increased 48 percent."

Reportedly, Sacramento County jail has experienced a 164 percent increase in assaults on employees, "the greatest percentage increase of any

large county," even though its population has not grown and remains close to its design capacity of 4,125 inmates, the *AP* reported.

DECREASE

"Sacramento County was the only one to see a decrease in inmate-on-inmate assaults, while Alameda, Los Angeles and Santa Clara counties saw declines in assaults on staff," the *AP* reported.

During the same period the CDCR's inmate-on-inmate assaults dropped 15 percent, and staff assaults dropped by 24 percent as its population declined, according to statistics obtained by the *AP* through a public records request.

VOEG Honors and Celebrates Graduation of 31 Inmates

Continued from Page 1

edged the 31 graduates.

Ellen Barry honored the men for "completing a very, very deep and healing process." She said VOEG is a program about forgiveness, accountability and compassion.

"I was struck by the amazing quality of the programs. This is some of the bravest work I've seen done," Barry said.

The VOEG curriculum is designed to bring perpetrators of crimes and crime victims together in dialogue and to facilitate victims' healing.

"I have an appreciation for the men who have really looked into their lives and gained a deep understanding about the harmful decisions they've made and have learned from those mistakes," said facilitator Lynn Cooper. "Every day I'm impressed with their insight and commitment to the changes the inmates have made in their lives."

In the Next Step curriculum, inmates go deep into strengthening their relapse prevention plan, understanding the significance of past trauma, building relationships, learning how to prepare for the parole board and planning for reentry.

"The inmates are reclaiming

their past and are reconnecting the dots in their lives to show how they got to the worst thing in their lives and understanding the context of their lives," Cooper said.

During the graduation, several crime victims took to the stage, telling the audience how VOEG helped them heal from pain and suffering.

In February 2005, Patty Riley was on the first San Quentin VOEG victims' panel.

She said on April 19, 2004, her husband was killed by a drunk driver. She said the incident tested her faith.

"I had three choices," Riley said, "Leave the Catholic church because I couldn't forgive, stay in the church and not forgive, or stay in the church and forgive. In the end, my faith carried me through."

The toughest thing for a criminal to do is to see the look on a victim's face as they hold themselves accountable to explain their actions, Riley told the audience.

"I kept coming inside San Quentin because I feel we're all sinners," she said. "I believe divine providence led me to Restorative Justice. There's realness in listening to the dialogues and panels."

Dionne Wilson is a new member of San Quentin's VOEG program and sits on victims' panels. Her husband, a police officer, was killed in the line of duty.

"Before learning about VOEG, I was part of an 'us versus them' attitude. It wasn't until I was able to connect with people through VOEG did I realize what healing is," Wilson told the audience. "It's how I found forgiveness.

You have no idea what it did for me. It completely changed my life. The man who killed my husband is right here on Death Row. I wish he were here. But I'm not allowed to connect with him. The system is taking away my chance to heal. So, I'm dedicating my life to change that."

San Francisco native Alexander Germanacos said even before college, he was interested in working with incarcerated people. Now, Germanacos is a third-year family therapy student at California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS).

"CIIS uses a holistic approach to treatment that takes into account what the client believes in. It's not just what we think," Germanacos said. He is scheduled to facilitate VOEG at San Quentin when the next classes begin.

Accompanying Germanacos was Eliza Bruce, who helps facilitate a different San Quentin program that concentrates on inmates who committed their crime as juveniles, Kid CAT. Bruce said she has completed the VOEG facilitator training to help her understand how to assist in the healing process.

"I'm inspired by restorative justice work — all forms of this kind of work," Bruce said. "I think the connection between inside and outside is necessary and important for everybody involved."

As a part of the inmates' training, James Fox teaches yoga. The author of *Yoga: a Path for Healing and Recovery*, Fox has been teaching yoga to inmates since 2002. His book has been sent to more than 10,000 inmates worldwide, free of charge.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Audience listening closely to one of the speakers

"Powerful book," said yoga instructor Gibran McDonald. "It has meditation that helped me. It especially helped me to stop my inner wars." McDonald assists Fox in his yoga classes in San Quentin. "I teach at a donation-based studio [Earth Tribe Yoga] and at elementary schools."

More than 50 prisons and jails, including San Francisco County Jail and Solano State Prison, have invited Fox to teach yoga to inmates. He said his next project is to get a yoga program set up in R.J. Donovan State Prison. He said he has been invited to help start yoga programs in Norway and Germany.

"People who go through VOEG look closely at themselves," Fox said. "Yoga is very supportive of this cognitive process. Yoga offers this mind/body integration. It can help accelerate the restorative process."

At San Quentin, there are four yoga classes—one in H-Unit, one for veterans and two for the mainline. There is currently a waiting list for mainline participation.

"If I had the space, I'd start another tomorrow," Fox said.

Lead facilitator Rochelle Edwards has been working with VOEG since 2001. Edwards is stepping down from the VOEG program. She said the VOEG program is indebted to Jamie Carroll for creating the curriculum.

Sonya Shah stepped into Edwards' position as Restorative Justice Program Director and

Cheryl Cranshaw is the new Clinical Supervisor of Facilitators.

Inmate David Basile said while doing his time, he was stuck in a rut. However, in 2006 he met Edwards.

"Rochelle held me accountable for things I've done in my life," Basile said. "After I went to the hole and got out, she told me that she wouldn't give up on me. That was the first time someone had told me they weren't giving up on me. It was significant in my healing process."

Pending the governor's approval, Basile is scheduled to parole this coming summer after more than 30 years of incarceration.

The inmate VOEG facilitators presented Edwards with a plaque of appreciation and all the community facilitators were presented with flowers grown by inmate Frankie Smith.

Robert "Red" Frye has been with San Quentin VOEG since its beginning.

Edwards told the audience about Frye's involvement in the program, and congratulated him on his accomplishments and upcoming parole.

"I've had the honor of seeing him grow and change," Edwards said. "Tomorrow we'll have the honor of seeing him go home after 25 years of incarceration." Frye walked out of San Quentin on April 17.

"What a gift this community has been for me during the last 14 years," Frye said.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Guest and prisoners enjoying the graduation

Attorney General Reports Hate Crimes Decreased in California

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

The number of hate crimes in California decreased 12.8 percent in 2012, according to California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris.

There has been a 37.6 percent drop in hate crimes in California since 2003, according to state numbers. Harris says California law enforcement will “monitor and prosecute these cases to ensure severe consequence and accountability.”

Hate crimes with a race/ethnicity/national origin bias decreased 10.1 percent from 2011 to 2012. These have consistently been the most common type of hate crimes in California over the past decade, the Attorney General reported.

The report showed that hate crime events involving sexual orientation bias decreased 3.7 percent, and events involving a religious bias decreased 27.9 percent from 2011 to 2012.

“While overall numbers are down this year, any hate crime hurts the people and values of California”

The FBI established the hate crime categories. The statistics used to compile the report were derived from po-

lice agencies and district attorneys’ offices throughout California.

Matching changes made by the FBI and the California Department of Justice will make three changes to the hate crime reporting by law enforcement throughout the state.

“Gender non-conforming” will be added to the gender category and “community centers” will be added to the location category. In addition, “anti-Sikh” will be added to the religious category.

Statistics from these changes will appear in the Attorney General’s 2014 Hate Crime Report to be released in 2015. In her report, Harris commented, “While overall numbers are down this year, any hate crime hurts the people and values of California.”



Official Photo

California Attorney General Kamala Harris

Eric Holder Pushes to Restore Ex-Felons’ Right to Vote

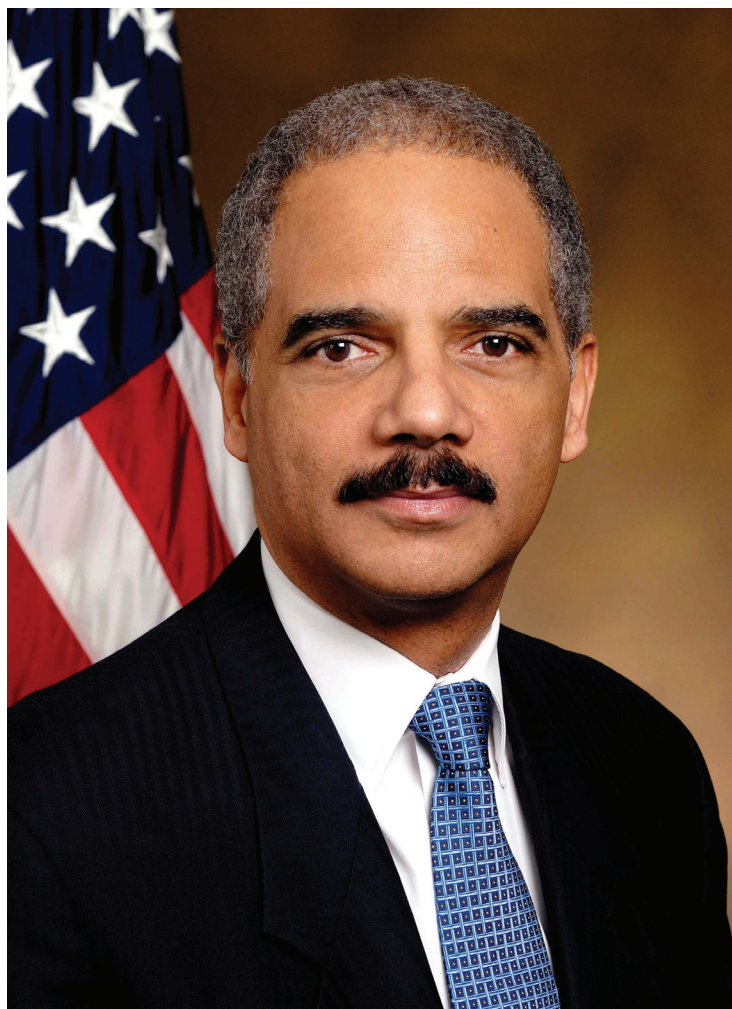
‘The laws deserve not only to be reconsidered, but repealed’

During a speech at Georgetown University Law Center, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. urged states to restore voting rights of felons after their release from prison. Holder said, “It is time to fundamentally reconsider laws that permanently disenfranchise people who are no longer under federal or state supervision.”

According to Adam Goldman of *The Washington Post*, voting rights activists are trying to push forward an amendment that would make it easier for “returning citizens” to vote in Florida. The push could become a campaign issue in Florida’s gubernatorial election this year.

Holder said that 10 percent of Florida’s population is disenfranchised. “The laws deserve not only to be reconsidered, but repealed,” Holder said. In addition to Florida, there are 10 other states that restrict voting rights for felons, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Characterizing felony disenfranchisement as “unwise,” “unjust,” and “not keeping with our democratic values,” Attorney General Holder shined a light in another dark corner in the nation’s room by



Official Photo

Attorney General Eric H. Holder

reminding the public that, “Although well over a century has past since post-reconstruction, states used these measures to strip African-Americans of their most fundamental rights. The impact of felony disenfranchisement on modern communities of color remains both disproportionate and unacceptable.”

California is currently facing its own disenfranchisement crisis among felons. In February, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California and Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area filed a lawsuit against the state for “unconstitutionally stripping tens of thousands of people of their right to vote,” according to an ACLU press release.

Michael Richer, a staff attorney with the ACLU of Northern California said, “The Secretary of State should be working to increase voter participation, not undermine it.” Additionally, Richer noted that the Secretary of State is worsening California’s existing issue of low rates of voter participation by revoking voting rights of those trying to integrate back into society, claiming that “Califor-

nia needs more protection – not less – for voting rights.”

Dorsey Nunn, executive director of All of Us or None, one of the plaintiff organizations in the lawsuit said, “Society is more secure when all people feel they are fully part of it. If we want formerly incarcerated Californians to be good citizens, we need to convince them that they are part of society too. I have never met a graffiti artist who spray paints his own home or business.”

Trudy Shafer, a director at the League of Women Voters, another organizational plaintiff, said allowing released felons to vote might actually help keep them from reoffending. In fact, recent studies suggest that there is a correlation between voting and reduced risk of recidivism.

“There are already a lot of hurdles that you face if you are reentering the community, and being integrated into the community is a way of making it easier to get over those hurdles,” Schafer said. “There’s nothing better than having a say in what your community life is going to be like by voting.”

– By Lee Jaspar

Studies: Disproportionate Number of African-Americans Are Incarcerated

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

A disproportionate number of working-age African-American men are imprisoned, *The Pew Charitable Trusts* found in 2010.

One in 12 African-American men aged 18-64 are incarcerated, *The Pew* study showed. That compares to one in 87 for whites and one in 36 for Hispanics.

“Inmates cannot work to provide for their families,” according to Yi Wu, a graduate from Boston University. “Instead of producing goods

or being trained, they are locked in cages. In every 12 African-American families, there is one missing breadwinner. It is estimated that imprisoning one person costs \$23,286 annually in lost productivity.”

According to Yi, “more than one out of three young black men without a high school diploma are incarcerated. If you are a black male high-school dropout, you have only a 63 percent chance of being free.”

Yi attributes the high prison rate to the War on Drugs and mandatory minimum

sentences, both of which are currently being reviewed for potential changes by state and federal governments.

“Inmates cannot work to provide for their families”

Legal scholar Michelle Alexander called these policies the “New Jim Crow” replacing the “old” explicit Jim Crow laws to keep people of color at an inferior status.

Similarly, attorney Tanya

Coke, in a speech to John Jay College, suggested motives for sustained support of long sentences including “racial fears of unemployed black men and the threat of incarceration, but also a cause for policy choices targeting low-skill, poorly educated men for imprisonment.”

“It is time to stop the vicious cycle of incarceration of joblessness that disproportionately affect communities of color. The first step is to enact serious criminal justice reform -- to release and rehabilitate some inmates and assist their reentry into

the labor market, and change laws, in particular drug laws and mandatory minimums. Only by ending Jim Crow of our day can (Martin Luther) King’s dream for a more equal and free nation be realized, and only by doing so can the work of marchers not done in vain,” Coke said.

Coke added, “As the first African American Attorney General, Eric Holder has recently called for some limited reforms toward that goal, and hopefully, the 50th anniversary of the march will be another turning point in history.”

A Positive Mail Call Can Generate Hope

By John L. Orr
Contributing Writer

You can feel the tension increase on 6-North every evening around six. The after-dinner cleanup is finished; cribbage and Scrabble games begin. A soft murmur of the evening news escapes from the TV room, but does not mask the electricity in the air. Resolute chess players periodically lift their heads and peer toward the entrance door to the module.

What elicits such pronounced change in these inmates? Fear of the lieutenant who distributes extra duty slips like business cards at a gentlemen's club? The pending arrival of the attractive brunette who picks up the sick call list? Well, maybe she is partially responsible, but the reality is the wait for mail call.

Letters, magazines, greeting cards and even legal mail are treasured. When the familiar blue mesh bag finally appears,

everyone is drawn to it as if by a huge magnet. Inmates are sucked out of their cells and TV rooms, swept along to the correctional officer's desk. Even the hardest veteran inmate has to fight to keep the edges of his mouth from curling into a tiny smile. All silently hope that someone has remembered.

Unfortunately for many, there is seldom anything in the blue mesh bag. We walk away with shoulders slumped, silently mumbling about our loved ones not knowing what it is like on the inside, how outside contact elevates us. Many times, we say to ourselves, "Why do I bother to send letters? Nobody cares enough to write back."

How do we overcome this cycle of hopelessness and encourage our friends and relatives to write? Easy. Send quality letters and you will receive more responses. Write positive letters with upbeat content instead of dwelling on negativism.

Granted, many of us do not write well and feel a little embarrassed by spelling and grammatical errors. In reality, your relatives do not pay any attention to errors in your letters. They are our loved ones, not middle-school English teachers. Our correspondents are as excited as we are by mail call. However, when they find our communications filled with complaints about the system, hatred, anger and frustration, who can blame them for feeling upset too? There is so little they can do to make an inmate's frustrations go away. Your letters go unanswered until our correspondents deal with their own feelings of despair.

How do you feel when your mother writes you about an intimidating and harassing neighbor? You can do nothing to help her and you are depressed and angry at the predicament. Mom is in the same boat when you send a letter airing your problems with a corrections officer,

counselor or other inmate.

Our people on the outside do not want to hear about unpalatable food, long lines or the lack of useful activities (unless you can present the difficulties in a humorous manner). They want to hear positive aspects of your life, however few.

Think about the last letter you received from home, one that brought a smile to your face. The communication was filled with information about family, friends, new babies, relatives and changes taking place around your home. A letter like this might cause a little homesickness, maybe a tear or two, but overall, the information invigorates you. We are assured our families are safe and secure when a letter expresses contentment.

Try writing your letters in a similar vein. Include positive information. Relate to a new friend you have made or simply state you have lost a little weight or that you

finally beat a rival in a handball game. If you show friends and family your strength at dealing with the inside life, they in turn are encouraged. Remember, the recipients of your cards and letters absorb your disappointment and frustrations. Their responses to your letters come easier if they do not first have to sort out their own depression.

When answering letters, re-read their lines and pen a few of your own in response to each topic covered. Answer the questions asked and respond with your own views and memories on the same subject. If told Aunt Teresa had a baby, respond with a line or two about how you remember she was a terrible driver. Whoever wrote you may respond that Aunt Teresa recently had two fender-bender accidents, automatically continuing your long-distance communications.

You will find your letters will be longer and far more interesting if you are positive.

Immigration Shackles Lawsuit Settled

By N. T. "Noble" Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

U.S. immigration officials and lawyers representing detainees settled a lawsuit concerning the use of shackles during immigration hearings.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the settlement reached was in response to a

suit filed in federal court by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of detainees in Northern California. Reportedly, the Northern District of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had a policy of shackling all immigrants held in detention at the wrists, waists, and ankles for all court appearances.

This shackling policy varied throughout the different ICE administrative districts with no uniform guidelines. The ACLU argued that the restraints were painful and made it difficult for detainees to communicate effectively with their lawyers at their hearings.

In the terms of the settlement, ICE agreed to not shackle detainees during deportation or bail hearings unless they become disruptive, violent or are deemed an escape risk.

The settlement still allows for shackles during appearances for an initial hearing (known as the master calendar) where there are large numbers of detainees appearing in court at the same time. Such hearings

are usually brief and typically used for scheduling and other administrative matters. The settlement allows detainees to request that shackles be removed or loosened for medical reasons and prohibits detainees from being chained together. The government also agreed to pay \$350,000 in attorney fees and court expenses.

Although the settlement applies only to the Northern District of California, an attorney for the ACLU, Julia Harumi Mass, thinks it will have a lasting impact throughout the entire agency. In an interview with *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Bob Egelko, Harumi Mass opined that ICE officials from now on will "think twice

before overusing restraints elsewhere."

Harumi Mass also noted that immigration cases are civil cases, not criminal, and in criminal courts, routine shackling is prohibited.

In December 2011, ICE tried to have the lawsuit dismissed, but U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg rejected the motion.

In a statement released by ICE and reported by the *SF Chronicle*, the agency reaffirmed its commitment to "preserving the dignity and welfare of all those in our custody," while maintaining the security of courthouse visitors and staff. "[The settlement] affords the agency the flexibility to do both."

EDITORIAL

A Small Step in the Right Direction Could Impact Millions

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

The settlement reached in the shackling of ICE detainees case is small, but at least it's going in the right direction.

Allowing detainees some dignity by removing shackles before they enter a courtroom and treating them more humanely, rather than like chained animals, sets a new path for those who are guilty of merely crossing a border to find work or to be with family.

When the justice system decides to chain and shackle people who have not committed a serious crime, the dehumanizing effect is long lasting. The immigration laws turn a worker into an inmate, and the experience of being incarcerated destroys families.

It is true that these detainees have broken the law. However, this is different from criminal activity like burglary or theft or even worse. They are doing a job where he or she is needed or they are merely reuniting with family.

For any crime where the perpetrator is physically abusive to another or they are stealing, incarceration is appropriate. On the other hand, many ICE detainees happen to be caught up in a system that punishes hard-working individuals because he or she is not properly documented to be in

the U.S.

There are more than 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. These hard-working individuals are paying taxes and contributing to the local economy. Their children, some of whom are born in the U.S., are going to school, serving in our military, living the American Dream and becoming good citizens.

As a society, incarcerating people for wanting to provide for their family in a demanding job market isn't what our Founding Fathers wanted. However, should we (as I take liberty in paraphrasing the what's on the Statue of Liberty) give me your tired, give me your poor, give me your huddled masses, we as Americans and as human beings, can accommodate these good people. We set our standards very low when we demonstrate a clear lack of respect for a demanding job market that finds workers, and then treats these hard-working people as if they were criminals.

Although it is encouraging to hear ICE publicly declare that its policy is to preserve the dignity and welfare of all those in its custody, the larger issue is the U.S. criminal justice policy should not be focusing on incarcerating people whose only crime is crossing a border to either feed or reunite with their families.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOCKED UP WITH NO COFFEE CAKE:

I would really like to get your *San Quentin News*. I'm sending you three forever stamps. I'm in the SHU here at Sacramento and I have nobody on the outside. I had to give up my coffee cake for three weeks just to get three stamps.

Thomas Young

Dear San Quentin News: I'm hoping that you all have some back issues of *San Quentin News* that I can get you to send me with the enclosed SASE. I've heard really good news about your newspaper and hope to get some useful info out of them to help here in our Arizona Super Max lockdown.—**G. Stanhope**

Dear San Quentin News: I sincerely hope all is well over at *San Quentin News*. You guys do a great service for our community. It's appreciated and respected. I am in ASU/hole right now and will be transferring to another 180 prison (Corcoran or Delano) once down there, I'll be ordering a yearly subscription.—**W. Jones**

Hello: I am incarcerated and separated from my two younger children (Landon Morris and

Austin Morrin). They are now also separated from their mother, who couldn't give them the life she wanted and gave custody to my mother. I would love to receive a pamphlet on *Tips for Incarcerated Parents*.—**S. Morris**

Please send me a pamphlet *Tips for Incarcerated Parents*. Please and Thank you—**F. Romero**

Dear San Quentin News: I am writing concerning a letter and stamps I sent you for a February and March issue of *San Quentin News*. I was at the WASCOR Reception center at the time. I have recently been transferred to Corcoran State Prison. Please, I sent you six stamps the amount to cover the month of February and March, but I have not received a copy of the *San Quentin News*. Please explain to me what happened, there was no return to sender so somebody did receive the letter. I would like to have a 1-year subscription to the *San Quentin News*. First, I would like the copy that you have failed to send me. Please! Please! Please! Correct this matter and explain how I can get a subscription for 1 year. I will be eagerly waiting on your reply. Thank you for

your time and cooperation.—**R. Tappin**

Newsroom: I sent 5 stamps for an issue of your newspaper over a month ago like it states in the back of your paper. If you want an issue I/M can send 5 stamps and receive a copy. It's been over a month now and I would either like an up to date copy or my stamps back. Thanks.

Is this newspaper a scam? To burn I/M out of they're stamps?—**N. Brimage**

Reply: By administrative rules, each edition of *SQ News* must be cleared by the warden. However, since the shutdown, Sacramento has created another level of review. Each of the last two editions has taken more than three weeks for Sacramento to send it back to us for printing. We are working on shortening that process so our readers get the news faster.

We are also working on getting more papers to our readers. If your library does not receive *SQ News*, ask your librarian to contact *San Quentin News* so they may be added to the mailing list.

We encourage our readers to give their take on the stories in *San Quentin News*.

¿Como se dice Cinco De Mayo en Francés?

Jorge Heredia
Contributing Writer

Mucha gente disfrutara una cerveza fría este Cinco De Mayo ¿Pero cuantas personas saben porque lo están celebrando?

Algunas personas ahora saben que la celebración del Cinco De Mayo conmemora la victoria del Ejército Mexicano sobre los Franceses, pero pocos conocen la historia de los desagradables eventos que culminaron en la victoria y por lo cual los Estadounidenses desde entonces lo celebran tan efusivamente a la par de los Mexicanos.

Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, el conflicto data desde Abril de 1838, cuando una expedición Francesa tomó por asalto el fuerte del pueblo de San Juan de Ulúa. Los barcos bloquearon el puerto de Veracruz para demandar el pago por supuestas perdidas sufridas por súbditos del Rey Francés Luís Felipe después de haber sido expulsados de México.

México rechazo la demanda Francesa, con lo cual barcos Franceses continuaron bloqueando el puerto de Veracruz y bombardearon la ciudad. La paz fue lograda con la ayuda mediática de Inglaterra. La crisis termino en Marzo 9, de 1839 con una victoria diplomática Mexicana.

La segunda invasión Fran-

cesa vino en 1862, cuando el nuevo gobierno del Presidente Mexicano Benito Juárez estaba envuelto en problemas domésticos y exteriores. En los años que siguieron, la caída del segundo imperio Mexicano y restauración de la Republica Mexicana estuvo caracterizada por faccionalismo político, caos y gran miseria por todo el país.

Donald W. Miles, autor, dice que en Abril 9, 1862, en Veracruz la alianza tripartita de Francia, Inglaterra y España fue disuelta, solo quedando tropas Francesas en México. Francia tomando ventaja del frágil poder económico y militar de México intento conquistar el país Azteca en 1861, usando la excusa de procurar el reembolso por la deuda, a pesar de la bancarrota en la que se encontraba México al momento.

Los conservadores lideres Mexicanos, aún dolidos por su derrota en la guerra civil a manos del partido liberal de Juárez, solicitaron la ayuda de las monarquías Europeas, incluyendo Napoleon III de Francia, según Miles. A principios de 1862, tropas Francesas ocuparon la Ciudad de México y crearon una Asamblea Superior de Notables, los cuales estuvieron de acuerdo acerca de la forma de gobierno hereditaria constitucional monárquica, cual seria personificada por Ferdinand

Maximilian Joseph de Habsburgo, archiduke de Austria.

Los Franceses tomaron por asalto la ciudad de Orizaba, Veracruz, donde a mediados de Abril ellos escribieron un acta en la cual la autoridad de Juárez era desconocida y el General Juan Alamonte era proclamado el Presidente de México.

Esto condujo a la gran batalla de Puebla en Abril 12, de 1862, finalizando con la victoria Mexicana sobre los Franceses el Cinco de Mayo de ese año. La sangrienta batalla tuvo lugar en el Cerro de Guadalupe. “Lorenzencez envió ola tras ola de tropas Francesas quienes en los fuertes eran rápidamente decapitados a punta de machetazos por Indios Zacapoaxtecas,” Miles escribe. El General de Brigada Porfirio Díaz, quien más tarde se convirtió presidente de México, tomo su caballería para salir al encuentro y abatió los atacantes Franceses que quedaban vivos, según Miles.

Sin embargo, los esfuerzos de Díaz no duraron mucho, porque diez meses más tarde los Franceses pusieron al archiduke Austriaco Ferdinand Maximilian en el poder—dándole el titulo de nuevo emperador de México en Junio de 1864, Miles dice.

El emperador Maximilian tampoco duro mucho, pues él fue capturado en Mayo 15, de 1867. Y con órdenes de Juárez,

en Junio 19, de 1867, Maximilian fue fusilado junto a sus generales en el Cerro de las Campanas en Querétaro, México.

Simultáneamente, en Mayo de 1862. El Presidente Abraham Lincoln tenía mucho de que preocuparse. Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, los Estados Unidos estaba al borde de la autodestrucción por su propia mano (¡UNA GUERRA CIVIL estaba sucediendo!). Lincoln tenia los enormes recursos industriales de los estados del Norte a su disposición, pero las fuerzas Confederales del Sur eran empedernidos luchadores en su busca por la secesión. Las tropas enemigas se descuartizaban entre ellos por decenas de miles con ningún claro ganador al momento. Si alguien del exterior se hubiera aliado con el Sur, eso pudiera haber sido suficiente para inclinar la balanza y dividir el país para siempre. Según la historia, tal aliado estaba haciendo su entrada a través de México. Éste era el ejército de primera clase-mundial de Napoleon III, sobrino de Napoleon Bonaparte.

¿Que habría sucedido si las tropas de Napoleon hubieran conquistado México, establecido su propio gobierno monárquico, el Emperador Maximilian, y después haber procedido hacia el norte y ayudar a los Confederales dividir los Estados Uni-

dos en dos menos amenazantes naciones?

En las palabras de Miles, “Los Estados Unidos nunca se hubiera convertido en el importante poder mundial que es hoy día. Otra nación ocuparía el territorio donde los estados del sur de EE.UU. ahoy se ubican, y la nación que conocemos como México probablemente aún estaría dominada por Francia. En vez de eso, los Mexicanos no solo retomar su país, pero enforzarón la Doctrina Monroe e influenciaron el resultado de la Guerra Civil Estadounidense.”

¿Como las compañías cervezeras convirtieron este gran momento histórico en un Día de Borrachera Internacional? Bien, pues cada buena victoria merece su debida celebración. Además, si pudimos mantener a los Franceses a raya y salvaguardar la soberanía de ambas naciones, para que preocuparse.

Yo digo, *laissez sante et aimer la vie, alors que nous faire délicieux de la viande rôtir barbecue. Allons-y! Que la fête commence, et Que Vive Mai le cinq!* (ahique brindar y disfrutar la vida mientras cocinamos una sabrosa carne asada. ¡Vamos! Que comience la celebración, y ¡Que Viva el Cinco De Mayo!). Pero recuerde, su enfoque siempre tiene que estar en la educación, no en la cerveza.

San Quentin Prisoners Explain Their Definitions of Cinco de Mayo

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

From elementary school to high school, many of us were taught the fundamentals of United States history and world history.

From George Washington and Christopher Columbus to the Spanish Conquest of the Americas and the participants of World War I and II, there is usually some sort of Spanish history when it comes to Mex-

ico, our immediate neighbors south of the U.S. border.

One of the most popular celebrations in Mexico that is put on for American tourists is Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is literally translated as the “fifth of May.” It’s also celebrated in many communities here in the United States, especially those with Mexican or Hispanic communities. But what is Cinco de Mayo? Do the men on the mainline know what it’s for?

“Asked On The Line” asked a few of the men in blue what they thought Cinco de Mayo was celebrating and/or commemorating.

There were some interesting answers, read on...

Eduardo Delapena said, “It is for Mexicans only right? I really don’t know.”

Brian Asey thought that Cinco de Mayo was celebrating Mexican Independence Day.

Jeff Sabier said, “I have never known. It’s not my reli-

gion.”

Manuel Gomez Lopez said, “Es por la Batalla de Puebla en 1849.” [It is for the Battle of Puebla in 1849.]

Chris Marshall, speaking very good Spanish said, “No se.”

Danny Ho said, “Independence Day is for Mexico’s rights?”

Phillip Bloach said, “I can’t answer that.”

Perry Simpson said, “Mexican Independence.”

Joe Demerson said, “It’s when Hispanics celebrate their independence.”

Tony Harris said, “Mexican independence”

Dean Brown said, “I don’t know.”

Arturo Avalos said, “Nosotros no celebramos el cinco de Mayo en Mexico.” [We do not celebrate on May 5th in Mexico.]

Eusebio Gonzalez said, “Batalla de Puebla” [The Battle in Puebla.]

Sam Johnson said, “It’s a holiday of family and friends for peace, freedom and life.”

Chris Scull said it was commemorating the Battle of Puebla.

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez said, “Independence Day.”

Jesus Flores said, “A battle between Mexico and France.”

S.Q. Literacy Groups Discuss Issues Concerning Supply Shortage

‘I want to support all programs. I’m accessible and available’

Continued from Page 1

thing. Education is important to rehabilitation.”

San Quentin’s literacy programs target inmates at different levels of education. Free to Succeed targets inmates who need assistance at grade levels three through six. Project Reach serves inmates in need of assistance in grade levels six through 12. GED Prep prepares inmates ready for GED testing.

“I want to support all programs. I’m accessible and available,” said Albritton. “There are a lot of opportunities that weren’t available in the past. Go beyond from where you are. Don’t be satisfied with a GED; seek college.”

Volunteer inmates facilitate

each of the programs. They have completed a tutor-training course given by Marin Literacy Program. Tutors work in classrooms, on the prison yard, in the cellblocks and at work sites during lunches and break time.

“I think it is so important to have these types of programs in these facilities,” said Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, a frequent San Quentin visitor since 1992.

“I remember when Bobby was quiet and didn’t read,” Carson said, referring to the banquet organizer. “Now he’s learned how to speak publicly and he teaches his peers how to improve their education. He’s impressive.”

“We recruit volunteers to teach. It’s a unique program that started in 1999. The connection

with Marin Literacy was to create the same tutoring availability for students the way it’s done outside for those inside. The prison literacy programs create a culture of learning and when you’ve educated yourselves, you want to pass that down,” said Madeleine Provost, Marin Literacy Program liaison.

“If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem,” said Voluntary Education Program Coordinator Marci Ficarra. “I’m in it because I want my community to be safer. Education is something that can’t be taken away from you. I think society fails anyone who does not get an education. I’m hoping that we can succeed so that you can spread education.”

“It is the student’s desire to learn that is at the heart of this

program,” said Project REACH Secretary David Lee.

“The prison literacy programs create a culture of learning”

Carson said, “We think it is critical that we work with individuals to improve their quality of life, so that people know when they’re getting out, there’s a handoff. When you look at the odds against you, I believe you can succeed. I believe if you’re able to do the job, then that should be the first thing about employment. Can you do the job? The government is working on that.

Yeah, it’s hard, but make the change.”

James Metters and Dwight Kennedy entertained the audience with an educational rap.

Albritton and Carson listened with heads bobbing and beaming smiles. “They ought to record that!” Albritton said.

“Alameda County has been supporting the incarcerated as long as I’ve been here,” Evans said. “I’ve known Keith for about 12 years. He’s also involved with No More Tears.”

No More Tears is a violence-prevention group led by Lonnie Morris. “It’s no more tears in response to violence,” Evans said.

Provost provides volunteer instructors for Project REACH, including Carol Hardee and Sue Pixley.

—By Juan Haines

San Quentin Embraces Restorative Justice

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

A new approach to criminal justice is gaining worldwide support and San Quentin is an important part of the movement, a university psychology professor told a recent symposium.

"The Restorative Justice movement is spreading across the world, and you guys are an important part of the program," said keynote speaker Dacher Keltner, PhD., of the University of California at Berkeley. He explained the intersection of his Berkeley research and concepts of the Restorative Justice movement.

Restorative Justice promotes values such as respect, care, trust and humility.

The March 8 symposium was attended by San Quentin's Restorative Justice com-

munity, which includes many outside volunteers and sponsors. Principal oversight of the San Quentin program is in the hands of Mary Elliott, Ph.D. She said the movement of Restorative Justice is non-denominational, and not affiliated with any organization.

As liaison between the Berkeley Law School and San Quentin, Elliott advocates for the San Quentin project and connects with over 60 other organizations about Restorative Justice.

Elliott pointed out the differences between traditional approaches to justice and the Restorative Justice approach. She said the criminal justice system is retributive and seeks justice through punishment, blame and administering pain.

She also said, "The current system tends to exclude the

victims" by setting up an adversarial system between the state and the offender.

In the Restorative Justice approach, justice is sought by identifying the needs of the stakeholders and seeking repair by promoting responsibility and healing on all sides. It prescribes cooperative dialogue among persons most affected, which include the victims, offenders and the community.

Keltner runs a 500 person laboratory at Berkeley called the Greater Good Science Center.

With hundreds of people doing research in areas such as care, sympathy and communication by the medium of voice, many of the studies involve subjects which are used regularly in the Restorative Justice programs. One of the most important is the emotion

of care.

"The science of care" studies the effects of care upon various human interactions and its resulting effects. Keltner indicated the emotion of "care" is very important in making decisions. He spoke of breakthroughs in the study of "sympathy," for example.

According to Elliott, the mission statement of the project at San Quentin is to encourage Restorative Justice principles, processes and goals with all the stakeholders. That means that offenders, victims and others impacted by a crime are part of the solution. Listening to and understanding the other party is very important to the healing process, she said.

"The United States is the world's biggest human rights violator, and the biggest violations are in American prisons," commented a volunteer spon-

sor, Yoyo Tchoukleva.

Sponsor Rose Elizondo has been part of the San Quentin project for eight years. She is a professional mediator and says that we all need to be movement builders. "Building the Restorative Justice program around the world" is a key to changing the world, she said. Elizondo said that story telling is powerful, and "nothing is more powerful than when a victim tells their story."

According to Keltner, the healing offered by the Restorative Justice not only heals the mind, but it is good for one's body and the entire web of relationships we each live in.

"The Little Book of Restorative Justice For People In Prison," a book about the program for inmates, says, "Just one event, such as a crime, can impact a community for years to come."

Inmate Takes Unforgettable Bus Tour of California

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) booked one inmate on a roundabout bus ride for a tour of the state.

Patrick Callahan, 51, said he was placed on a no-transfer list at San Quentin State Prison. However, in February, he was transferred without warning to a private prison, California City Correctional Facility (CCCF).

Callahan said he was never officially told in a classification hearing that he was going to be transferred. He said he was among a group of inmates uprooted and transferred to CCCF, despite having a job assignment and being enrolled in a college course at San Quentin.

Callahan said a corrections officer in San Quentin's receiving and release (R&R) told him he was on the no-transfer list and should not be transferred. However, he later boarded a bus for a scenic, two-day transport across the state.

"I would've been transferred without notice," said Callahan, if his housing offi-

cer had not given him notice. "I'm certainly not the first. They told me to pack at 10:30 p.m. the night before I left, and by 5 a.m. I was in R&R."

"All of us (inmates) went to committee in September 2013; all of us had jobs," Callahan said. "They (SQ/CDCR) wanted people who were programming to start prison over."

***"I'm very thankful
to Patten College
for getting me
back up here"***

The stages of Callahan's adventure took him from San Quentin to Soledad State Prison, to California Medical Facility (CMF-Vacaville), to Mule Creek State Prison (Ione), to Sierra Conservation Camp (Jamestown), and then to Deuel Vocational Institute (DVI/Tracy) where he stayed overnight. The following morning he left DVI to complete the first half of his journey, arriving at California City.

According to Callahan, the trip was smooth and inmates were respectful to each other. He said he did not attend a classification hearing for the two weeks he was at CCCF, and "it took me 10 days to get my property."

"It's a very restrictive program. Chow is run like a reception center," said Callahan, referring to the dining policy at CCCF. He added that the administration wanted to keep things orderly.

Callahan said there are no programs at CCCF. He said inmates play cards, watch television, work out and walk around the pod. The day before leaving CCCF he said he was finally able to go to the recreation yard, which alternates on a day-to-day schedule.

For four days there was nothing to do at the prison, Callahan said. "It's a glorified county jail, run by the state."

Callahan said CCCF has classrooms with computers, but "there're no students and no staff."

Callahan's sojourn lasted two weeks, before he was returned to San Quentin. "I got there (CCCF) on a Tuesday, and left on a Tuesday," Cal-

lahan said.

Before departing San Quentin for CCCF, Callahan was enrolled in an intermediate algebra class through Patten College. He said he was in his second semester of class.

"Math was always my strong point," Callahan said.

On March 11, Callahan was transported back to San Quentin, completing the second half of his journey. He said he was placed on a van headed for North Kern State Prison, where he spent one night. The following morning he passed through CMF-Vacaville, CSP-Solano and back to San Quentin.

Callahan did not anticipate his return to San Quentin any more than he did his departure two weeks earlier.

"When they (CCCF officials) told me to trans-pack, it was completely unexpected," Callahan said.

Administrators at Patten College intervened to bring Callahan back to San Quentin so that he could complete his class.

"I'm very thankful to Patten College for getting me back up here" to San Quentin, said Callahan. "I'm glad to be back."

Callahan said he never attended college on the streets prior to his incarceration. Asked if he will continue to pursue college when he paroles in March 2015, he said, "I think I will...I'm totally motivated by Patten College."

He said that with less than a year to go, the time left on his sentence is "too short" to allow him to complete an A.A. degree.

Callahan is from the small town of Colfax, where he was a dishwasher for two restaurants when he was arrested.

CCCF is a private prison owned by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), but is rented by the CDCR and operated by corrections officers.

The CDCR is using CCA's facility as a means to reduce its state prison population. A federal court has extended the state's deadline by two years to meet a population cap. The state, however, must meet a series of benchmarks within that two-year time frame, the first of which is a cap of 143 percent of design capacity by June 30.

After the interview with *San Quentin News*, Callahan said, "The CO told me I was cleared to go to class."

S.Q. Daoist Group Celebrates New Spring Festival

'It looks like we already have a successful beginning'

By Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

The Daoists group of San Quentin celebrated its first annual Spring Festival. "Gong Xi Fa Chai," which means, "congratulations and make a fortune," could be heard across the room.

"To my knowledge, this is the first celebration of this kind at San Quentin," said participant Chung Kao. He noted this is the Year of the Horse, which symbolizes success in the Chinese horoscope. "It looks like we already have

a successful beginning," Kao said.

Ten prisoners and six volunteers gathered Jan. 31 in the old laundry room to celebrate the first day of the 15-day Spring Festival. It is commonly known as the New Year because it is the first lunar day of the first month in the Chinese calendar. It plays a significant part in Chinese culture and Daoism.

According to the Chinese Fortune calendar website, New Year customs originated from a ferocious and carnivorous beast that long ago

lived in the mountains. It had a lion-type head with an elephant-type body. The villagers called the beast Nian.

One cold winter night, Nian roamed into a village in search of food. Seeing humans, it decided to eat one. They tried to kill Nian, but it was too strong. For their protection, the villagers stayed in their homes at night.

Years later, people found out that Nian was afraid of red, fire and noise. They hung red-colored peach wood on their doors and built campfires. When Nian approached,

people would throw bamboo into the fire. The cracking sound frightened Nian away. The following day, the survivors would celebrate and congratulate each other. Nian was defeated years later on New Year's Eve, and the custom continued.

According to an International Culture News report, "The Chinese New Year causes the biggest human migration of the new year."

During the reunion, homage is paid to the Jade Emperor and offerings of flowers and fruit are made. It is believed

that this helps bring safety and luck for the coming year. Calligraphers use characters to write New Year's poems on red paper and paste them on the top and side of the doors. Some common characters are spring, luck and money.

"The event was a success. I think the Chinese New Year is as relevant as the Roman New Year," said Paul Stauffer, who has been participating in the Daoist program for a year. "The program has helped me. It aligns your mind and whole body — physically and spiritually."

University of San Francisco Joins Brothers in Pen Creative Writing Class

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

For the past 15 years, writing instructor Zoe Mullery has spent each Wednesday night in a small, crowded room listening to and commenting on stories written by San Quentin inmates.

The inmates, called Brothers in Pen, produce a variety of works, including memoirs, science fiction, short stories and urban novels.

"There's something that happens in this room that's dear to me," Mullery says of her weekly workshops.

On one recent Wednesday, Annie Rovzar, a University of San Francisco (USF) creative writing instructor, and her students joined the Brothers in Pen.

Rovzar said when she discovered Mullery's workshop she thought an interaction between her students and Brothers in Pen would be constructive.

Alexandra, a USF student, said when she heard about the prison's writing workshop, she "wanted to come here and share with you guys." Alexandra, a communications major, explained, "I took creative writing because it's something I like doing."

"Hopefully we can learn something from you, and you can learn something from us," said inmate James Metters, who has been in

Mullery's workshop for about a year and a half.

Shira Steinberg took the USF creative writing class because she says, "It's the one place I can be honest," adding that she wants to become a child sociologist.

The students and inmates took turns reading their work, with all the participants commenting. The back and forth continued until everyone had read.

The USF students read pieces from a class assignment that required them to reflect on a significant memory.

USF student Paul read "My First Car Accident," a childhood memory about being the victim of a hit-and-run driver. He wrote, "I remember the air being still that day. I heard the sudden drift of the tires." His vivid recall of the event left the class asking if he fully recovered physically from the accident. He said, "Yes, I even play basketball now."

Mitchell Fryer has been in Mullery's Creative Writing Workshop for about six months. He read "Some People," a poem about self-identification through comparing and contrasting life from his perspective. Fryer also read "What Would It Take," about the trials and tribulations of living a hard life.

USF student Shelby Black read "Well Child," a poem that reflects

how she sees life. It instructs readers not to take life too seriously, keep a level head and live freely. "Buy shoes you'll never wear, and stop texting me and talk to me." Black is a journalism student and writes for The Foghorn, the college newspaper.

Roan "Coach" Koebler read two poems. "Fear," which is reminiscent of Franz Kafka's obscure tension between man and the state, as one line read: "science has disappeared into fiction." He also read a piece that connected pre-prison life with his current prison life.

USF student, Kevin read "World Pool." Kevin's words brought to mind the simple act of making tea, e.g., a steaming pot and swirling leaves. However, the words transformed the tea making process into a human character being swirled into a hypnotic, drug-like state.

"World Pool" took me to an unexpected place in literature," an inmate said.

Inmate Paul Stauffer read a poem "Hollywood Dream." His words, "Worshipping themselves who never was," point out the falsity and sham in the lives of Los Angeles socialites.

Steinberg wrote about her days of overcoming panic attacks through "I Remember." The inmates were visibly moved as they listened to her internal struggle and pain. "I felt really empowered to continue writing. The Brothers in Pen were very



Photo by Annie Rovzar

University of San Francisco students

supportive, so it made me realize that you are never alone, even if you think you are."

Jasmine read "First Memory," recalling what fear looks like for a child. The piece focused on overcoming pain and getting back to the state of childhood innocence. In her fear, she wrote, "I remember trying to make myself as small as possible. I remember feeling confused. I remember starting the next morning like nothing had happened."

After listening to the USF students, Rahsaan Thomas said, "What I've learned from hearing your stories is that inmates are not solely subjected to painful lives. Pain is universal."

USF student Spencer read "I Remember You," which was about his struggle with alcoholism. He stressed the importance of getting to step one. He wrote, "I found a conscious reason not to relapse and get back on track."

One USF student read "Treasure," a poem about self-imagery that advocates taking great pride in yourself by seeing yourself as a treasure. Another USF student

read a poem that critically examined a consumer-based economy. "House of Hell" takes a walk in the city, recognizing the power of capitalism through consumption.

Inmate Justin "Clown" Medvin ended the event by reading "The Rose that Grew from Ash," an expressive poem asserting life could be built from ruins.

"Coming to prison for the first time was a bit intimidating, said Gabe Nikias. "I emerged with a significantly changed perspective, making the seemingly obvious observation that even 'criminals' are pretty normal folks at heart."

"No matter who you are, what you've seen or where you're from, we all long to be recognized, appreciated and loved," said USF student Elizabeth M. "I could tell it was a safe space for the Brothers in Pen to share their work and tell their stories."

Rovzar and her colleague, Stephen Novotny, began a poetry workshop at San Quentin.

The Emergency for Emerging Forms of Life meets every Sunday from 5:30 to 8 p.m., May 4 through June 22.



Photo by Peter Mertz

Zoe Mullery and the Brothers in Pen on the Lower Yard

San Quentin News Humbly Receives James Madison Award

By Trenise Ferreira
UC Berkeley Contributing
Writer

The *San Quentin News* was honored by the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at a sold-out banquet in San Francisco.

The March 20 event was the 29th Annual James Madison Awards, and the *San Quentin News* was recognized for excellence in journalism because of its efforts to inform the public about mass incarceration in California.

Tom Peele, reporter for the *Bay Area News Group*, which publishes the *Oakland Tribune*, *Marin Independent-Journal* and *San Jose Mercury News*, said that the effort by San Quentin inmates, successfully producing a quality newspaper while operating under the constraints of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, was remarkable.

Former *San Quentin News* Design Editor Richard Lindsey accepted the award on behalf of the newspaper staff. Lindsey spent 26 years in prison and was paroled

in April 2013. While behind bars, he also facilitated the creation of the Victim Offender Education Group. Since his parole, Lindsey works as an electrician in San Francisco.

"It feels awesome for this recognition to be given," Lindsey said. "To be sitting in a room with some of the highest-ranking journalists of our time. Sitting in the room with them and to be recognized by them as their peers; it feels awesome." The guests in attendance said they were particularly impressed with Lindsey's story and the way he has turned his life around.

The audience numbered around 150 people. Once the award was announced for *San Quentin News*, a video was shown on a screen in the banquet hall. In the video Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo Garcia, surrounded by the *San Quentin News* staff, expressed appreciation for the award and thanked the SPJ. Garcia also thanked the volunteers from the UC Berkeley School of Journalism, the Haas School of Business and the civilian advisers, all of whom have

helped the newspaper achieve its goals.

A robust round of applause filled the room once the video was shown.

"Simply stated, it feels very empowering," Lindsey said. "Typically when you're incarcerated, you lose your voice, and this is a way for the men to retain that voice, to reclaim their voice, really."

"The award is something that I, along with my other colleagues, really pushed for," said Will Matthews, the senior communications officer for the American Civil Liberties Union of California. "Especially in this moment in California where we really are on the precipice of revolutionary criminal justice reform."

To Matthews, the journalistic work done within the walls of San Quentin is a great service to the community at large.

"It's important that you provide a voice from inside the prison to the free world. They [the inmates] are very important voices that we all in the free world need to hear on a regular basis, and you



File Photo

San Quentin News Advisers William Drummond and Joan Lisetor, Independent Researcher Richard Lindsey and San Quentin News Adviser John Eagan

provide that in tremendous ways every month. We are blessed by the work that they do."

Ali Winston, a freelance journalist covering criminal justice and member of SPJ, also expressed his admiration for the work done by the *San Quentin News* staff.

"I think it's a wonderful proj-

ect. I think our first amendment right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press is important, and you don't lose it when you go behind bars," he said. "I think it's essential for us to have that right; for people who are incarcerated to have access to information, and also to put out information on their own."

Happy Mother's Day With Love

Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

It has been said that the development of the human conscience first develops during the bonding phase between an infant and his mother. It helps shape our character, our personality and our temperament. So are we reflections of our mothers, or do we grow up to be her total opposite?

“How are you and your mom

the same? How are you and her different? If you could send her a brief message, what would you tell her?”

Juan Arballo said that he and his mother are “both analytical, perfectionists and as detailed as possible according to our personal knowledge and understanding of our personal lives.” As far as differences, Arballo’s mother loves onions, but he does not.”

Alexei Ruiz said, “There is



JoAnn, Shauna and Grandson Bradley

*By: Dennis Crookes,
Your life in my life
All these years
Kindness and sweetness
Brings me to tears.
Keeping me in line
Like a child in timeout
Having memories
of when I sit and pout
In the end
I'm a better man
You've taught me
"To do the best I can."
You're my mother
And I sorely miss
Like the boy in timeout
Waiting for his mothers kiss*



Bernice, Carol, Judy and Nancy

hold a grudge. I wouldn't say anything [to her], I would just hold her.”

Edward Delapena and his mom both love to eat. Delapena said that his mother easily comprehends things, but he does not. “Mom, I am thankful for all the memories.”

Brian Asey and his mom both forget names. Asey said that his mother forgives easily, but he does not. “I appreciate all her support that she has given me over the years. I love her.”

Jeff Sabier said that he and his mother are like twins, “We think alike.” Sabier said that his mother does not get into trouble but he does. “Next month is her birthday, on May 11. I would love to be home with her.”

Manuel Gomez Lopez and his mother are Scorpios. Gomez-Lopez said that his mother is responsible and he is irresponsible. “Quisiera hacerlo todo denuovo.” [I wish I could do it all over again.]

Chris Marshall and his mom both have “a continual quest for knowledge.” Marshall said that a major difference between him and his mom is that he is over 6'2" and she is only 5' tall. “I love you, baby.”

Danny Ho and his mom, “care for people.” Ho said that his mother has patience and he is impatient. “I love you.”

Phillip Bloach said that he and his mother are “detail oriented” but that he differs from his mother in that he is “morally challenged. She's got a better ethical base. I am proud of you.”

Perry Simpson said that he and his mother are the same, especially their temperaments. The only difference between them was that he is a male and she is a female.

Joe Demerson said that he and his mom were both short, however, “I'm wild. She's not.”

Tony Harris said that he and his mother are both candid. We “tell it like it is.” The only difference is our “generation gap.” “Thank you, Mom, I learned how to be a man and to accept my own responsibility-



Mr. Franklin Sr. and Mrs. Clarissa Welton

calmada.” [She is calm.] “Ella es mi angel y me ha cuidado to mi vida.” [She is my angel and she has taken care of me all of my life.]

Eusebio Gonzalez said he and his mother are humble people, but they differ in temper. “La quiero mucho” [I love you very much].

Samuel Johnson said that he and his mother are both spiritual and very similar. They only differ in their gender. “I want to thank you for leaving me your love so that I could be a better man.”

Chris Scull said that he and his mom are both short but he is outgoing and she is shy.

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez said that he and his mom both like to cook, but he is tall and his mom is short.



Rosalinda Gloria

Jesus Flores said that both he and his mother love to dance but his mom is loud and he is quiet. “Mom, you are my greatest friend.”

Nick Lopez: I pray God comforts you on this special day. I love you for all you've been to me as you did your best.

Pat Callahan: To my Mother, June. Love you, Mom. No one can fill a room with goodness like you can, Mom. Hope Mother's Day brings you happiness.

Bernard and Marisa Moss: We would like to thank two great mothers Ida and Kathy for being our biggest and strongest



Bernard and Marisa Moss

support system. We love you. Happy Mother's Day.

Bobby Dean Evans Jr: The more space and time between us without seeing or speaking to one another, the greater my appreciation of you.

Araar-Raheem Malik Dall: I miss you very dearly. I hope to see you in heaven. Miss that sweet potato pie. May you rest in peace. I love you.

Calmese Williams: To: Vera Williams. Your son loves you.

Vernon Britten: This journey has been a long, long ways going but through it all, you have stuck with it. I love you.

Bonarur Richardson: To Barbara Bracy, you are always there when I search for you. I pray that I can always be there for you in your time of need. I will always love you, Mama. Happy Mother's Day.

Anthony Pier: Mom, you've been there through thick and thin. I'll always cherish and love you with all my heart for being the strong black woman you are.

Curtis Barker: I love you and miss you and the rest of the family. I'm sorry I can't be there with you on this Mother's Day.

Johnny Walker: I'll always love you and miss you. I'll try to be there on the next Mother's Day. As always, love from your boys, Reggie and Johnny.

Shawn Ber-



Jennie Dell

ry: To all mothers sincerely, Happy Mother's Day

Kinte Hogan: Mom, if it were left up to me, every single day would be “Mother's Day.” Thank you for having me, I love you dearly.

Jimmy Martinez Jr: You're the only mother I have. I love



Sheyla Gonzalez

Arturo Lozano: Dolores Lozano, te quiero agradecer por la vida que me as dado al igual por todo tu apoyo y amor. Dios te bendiga madre mia. Besos y abrazos de tu hijo,

Mariano Rodriguez: Madre cita querida, quiero decirte en este dia tan especial que Dios te llene de bendiciones y te proteja de todo mal. Tu hijo

Julio Martinez: Maria Martinez, en este dia tan feliz, mi corazón se llena de alegría al recordarte madre querida. Que Dios te bendiga madre mia. Tu hijo,

Armando Soterio: Guadalupe J. Méndez, gracias por ser la madre de mis hijos y por tu comprensión y paciencia.

Byron Gene Franklin: You are the one I will love, forever and a day, eternity isn't long enough; our love is here to stay. From your Teddy Bear.

Darrell "Waylo" Williams: Mama, you taught me everything. I will always keep you inside. You're the driving force of my life. I miss you so much. Rest in peace.

Harun Taylor: My mother is my sun and the earth that brought me forth. I can't imagine not having her in my life. I appreciate you.

Thaddeus Fleeton: My mother is my love, my life, my heartbeat and my best friend.

Tuneco Smith: Thank you for being so supportive with your words and love. May you be blessed. We love you Robin Bush & Latisha Smith.

Steve: I remember valuable things my mom used to say to us kids. One was “When you say ‘I love you,’ mean it.”

Eusebio Gonzalez: On this Mother's Day I would like to thank you Ana, for blessing me with our beau-



Vaughn Miles and his mother Barbara Smith



File Photo

Agustín Muñoz: Maria Raquel Espino, en este día madrecita querida quiero agradecer por todo el apoyo que me as brindado. Especialmente, en estos últimos años que he pasado en prisión. Hoy quiero desearte que pases un feliz diez de Mayo. Te quiere,

Stephen Pascascio: On this Mother's Day I would like to send my love to all my sisters. May God bless them.

Carlos Meza: Lady, there is nobody in the world that would take your place in my heart, because you gave it to me.

Ramiro Márquez: Madre preciosa, en este día de las madres te deseo que pases este día feliz en compañía de tus hijos. .

Vaughn Miles: My mother is somebody that I respect and adore. She has taught me so many things with her perspectives and imperfections. This remarkable woman has shown me what unconditional love looks like as well as feels like.

To the San Quentin Family:

I want to take this time to say thank each and everyone of you for your thoughtfulness and kind words and above all your prayers. Your words were not only a comfort, but also a source of strength for my family and myself in this most difficult time for us all. I don't know each of you by name but you know who you are, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all the support each of you expressed and showed my son Vaughn for the lost of his brother. This has been a very difficult time for us, -but God said he wouldn't place anymore on us than we could bear. We don't always understand why God allows certain things to happen but through faith I will learn to accept it. Please continue to keep my family in your prayers. Losing a son/brother is a lifetime lost. You pray for me and I will continue to pray for each of you. God bless you all.

Mrs. Barbara Smith

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Birth rate around the world since 2007, is at 4.2 births per second, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Earhart, Amelia's death was considered a mystery. The search and investigation for her body cost the U.S. government \$4 million dollars.

According to the *Guinness World Records 2007*, the oldest women to give birth is Adriana Emilia of Romania. She was 66 years old when she gave birth on January 16, 2005.

Under house arrest by her father, King Henry II for fifteen years after a failed attempt to dethrone him was Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204). She led her sons on this attempt and failed.

The term women is believe to come from the Middle English term *wyf-man*, or wife (*wyf*) of man.

In a dedication to honor all moms is Mother's Day. This U.S. holiday is celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

From 625-705, Empress Wu Zetian was the only female in Chinese history to rule as an emperor. However, Confucius said it was unnatural to have a women ruler.

Under Wyoming law, in 1890 Wyoming became the first state to allowing women voting rights.

Longest serving female prime minister was Indira Ghandi (1917-1984). She served for the Republic of India in three consecutive terms, 1966 to 1977.

Sudoku Corner

By Ashmus "Humphrey" Troy

7	9							
	4		9	3		5	2	
	5	2					7	
		9					1	
3	1			9			8	2
	2					6		
	3					2	9	
	8	1		7	2		3	
		5					6	1

	8	4	7	1				
	5		4		2			
7								6
5				4	8			
		8		9		3		
		3	2					9
2								8
			9		5		1	
				4	8	6	7	

Featured Photo By P. Jo

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

2	7	5	8	6	3	4	9	1
3	1	9	4	2	7	8	5	6
8	4	6	1	9	5	2	3	7
1	3	8	5	4	2	7	6	9
4	9	2	6	7	1	5	8	3
6	5	7	9	3	8	1	4	2
7	8	4	3	1	9	6	2	5
9	6	1	2	5	4	3	7	8
5	2	3	7	8	6	9	1	4

1	8	6	3	4	9	2	7	5
7	5	3	2	8	1	6	4	9
4	2	9	6	7	5	1	8	3
5	4	7	8	9	6	3	2	1
6	3	2	4	1	7	5	9	8
9	1	8	5	2	3	7	6	4
2	9	5	7	3	4	8	1	6
8	6	1	9	5	2	4	3	7
3	7	4	1	6	8	9	5	2

POETRY CORNER

Convict, A Way Of Life

By C.L. McClelland

Outside there is peace, but that doesn't concern me, for I'm confined within these walls, walls of misery. I slipped on the outs and this is where I fell. Into this whistle blowing, bell ringing, man-made, barred earthy hell. Each morning I wake and I curse the light. Indicative of the beginning, another daily fight. A fight to remain sane in an insane game. Where they strip you of your dignity, give you a number and steal your name.

Stepping out onto the tier you look both ways. Never can tell where pain and death may lay. You put on that face that says, "Is it worth it to mess with me? I can be hard as hard can be!"

Steering clear of the fools who don't care about anyone. Who'll put their and your life up under the gun. You try to work your program, to keep the screws off your back; try to get him to leave you alone. You don't want no drama, just want to leave this place, leave this place and go home.

Later, at night when they rack the doors, like roaches you scurry into your cells, getting off the floor. Inside your cell you let go of an unconscious sigh. You made it through another day. It wasn't my turn to die.

Hopeful that your date will come if everything turns out right. You climb into your bunk, turning off the light. All the time knowing you live a convicted way of life.

If there is a god; Please help me?



Read a Book With Your Cellmate and Send Us Your Point of View

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

This month the book review column is doing something quite different. Journalism Guild Chairman Kevin D. Sawyer and I read two classic novels. Sawyer read the first classic, *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe, and I read *Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne. After reading them we have given our take on how the classics relate to the prison experience. We're asking cellies to read them, swap them and send your comments to *San Quentin News*.

Robinson Crusoe is the story of a malcontent castaway who is seemingly impatient with life. Does this sound familiar to you?

The story is more than just one man's misadventures on the open sea, exploring other countries, being kidnapped by pirates and forced into servitude, rescued, shipwrecked and marooned for 28 years on a remote island where he saves the

"savage," his man Friday, from cannibals somewhere in the Caribbean. Have you ever been in isolation, unsure of when you are getting out?

When Crusoe realizes the dire urgency and hopelessness of his circumstance, he contemplates a dark thought: "I had great reason to consider it as a determination of Heaven, that in this desolate place and in this desolate manner I should end my life..." Too many men have settled for such a finality because of this sentiment.

Contemplating life and the bleak outlook on his future, Crusoe reasons: "I learn'd to look more upon the bright side of my condition, and less upon the dark side, and to consider what I enjoyed rather than what I wanted..."

In Sawyer's analysis of *Robinson Crusoe*, he asks readers to consider what Defoe wrote about Crusoe's mindset, "...we never see the true state of our condition 'till it is illustrated to us by its contraries, nor know

how to value what we enjoy, but by want of it. Think freedom," Sawyer suggests.

After the pathos in evaluating what led to his undoing, and questioning why he has been forsaken, Crusoe jettisons his self-pity, realizing that he should be thankful that he did not perish: His life was spared, and still has purpose.

Here, survival dictates resourcefulness, similar to what many castaways in prison embody. When a man is stripped of his best and his worst, something else remains; regret, penitence and the possibility for change.

In *Journey to the Center of the Earth* Verne carefully uses language to make specific points about life choices and consequences "Facts overcome all arguments," Harry said to his uncle. "I made it a point to agree with the Professor in everything; but I envied the perfect indifference of Hans, who, without taking any such trouble about cause and effect, went blindly onwards wherever destiny chose to lead

him."

Calling the storyline a quest is a disservice. It is an expedition to a kind of darkness most convicts want to avoid—down a hole in the ground. "It must be that a man who shuts himself up between four walls must lose the faculty of associating ideas and words," writes Verne.

Inmates could easily relate to "The Hole," but who is willing to go there as a place of adventure? "How many persons condemned to the horrors of solitary confinement have gone mad—simply because the thinking faculties have lain dormant!"

Verne's use of language painted a vivid picture of each scene. Sentences like, "It was a dark night, with a strong breeze and a rough sea, nothing being visible but the occasional fire on shore, with here and there a lighthouse," filled this action-adventure with the descriptiveness that builds on a tension between the expedition leader, Hardwigg and his doubting nephew, Harry.

This standard tension builder was captivating for readers more than 100 years ago. I can understand how Hollywood has been motivated and put Verne's fan-

tasies on film with a language that still resonates in my mind long after reading it.

Both these classics force the convict to contemplate his or her place from an inward perspective, saying, "I only have myself to blame for my captivity." This is an opportunity for cellies to have a conversation about emotions not typically expressed about what trajectory led to the calamity of their life.

As Crusoe aptly observed during his solitary state, people "cannot enjoy comfortably what God has given them; because they see and covet something that He has not given them." While Verne notes that, "Science has fallen into many errors—errors which have been fortunate and useful rather than otherwise, for they have been the stepping stones to truth."

These authors teach us tough lessons about ourselves—how and why we should learn to live with gratitude, humility, contrition and restorative justice. Like *Robinson Crusoe* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, it's a beginning and it's how we start over.

—Kevin Sawyer contributed to this article

Revisiting Legacies of Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

In response to my last column (before the shutdown), I received inquiries about my definition and use of the term "warrior mindset" and my notion of "violence." The main questions posed: Is not the prison-industrial complex a form of institutional violence? What about the political, social and economic forms of violence imposed upon a community? And without some kind of a warrior mindset, how are people supposed to protect themselves, especially people who have historically been victims of violence?

On the heels of the death of Nelson Mandela and the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., this discussion of "warrior mindset" and "violence" is timely. As we reflect upon peace, we must ask ourselves, what was King's understanding and practice of nonviolence? What forces led Mandela on the path to reconciliation and forgiveness? In what ways do they both have relevance for us today?

King was profound because he was able to inspire a social movement based on a Gandhian-inspired philosophy of nonviolence that sought to challenge and change a violent culture. In so doing, King was able to strengthen himself and others against culture's corrupting influence. He moved closer to becoming the kind of person who is truly free, not further away—as many do when they engage violence for "good causes." King addressed violence by modeling transformative nonviolence. His non-violent strategy exposed the violence and ugliness of the oppressor. Both in his principle and practice, King emphasized

"creative tension" and argued that non-violent struggle was a process that transforms both the oppressor and the oppressed.

The approach of King and Gandhi to oppression was not to deny its existence but to confront it head-on in a non-violent manner. Non-pacifists might view this approach as naïve, but it was quite the opposite. Boycotts, marches, sit-ins, demonstrations and other non-violent actions proved highly effective.

Moreover, the attempts at nonviolent resistance, even if they fail in the direct encounter, still succeed morally. Even the "failed" encounters of King's marches, where fire hoses and dogs ended up being used, succeeded in inspiring the whole world to begin to understand the injustice. Of course, that does not work the same way when it is a war. Then one side may have the more righteous reason for fighting, but the killing itself is equally immoral.

So in my rejection of violence and warrior mindset, I realize that it is also necessary to articulate an alternate vision for confronting violence and injustice, as King did. Otherwise, it appears that the "victim" should offer no resistance and is left with no defense against violent oppression. Nonviolence does not negate uncompromising resistance to social forces and structures that deny or limit human freedom.

King contended that it is immoral and cowardly to collaborate in one's oppression, and that passivity counts as collaboration: "To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system." Moreover,

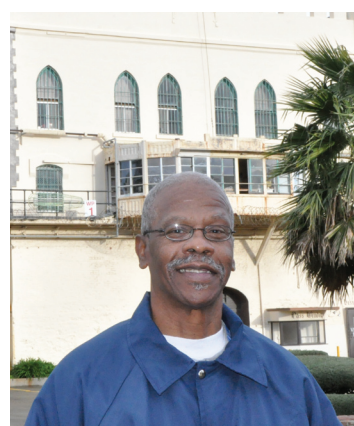


Photo by Raphaele Casale

Watani Stiner

in so doing, "the oppressed becomes as evil as the oppressor." This kind of non-resistance to social evil says to the oppressor that his actions are "morally right." Thus, King concludes, acquiescence to oppression is not only morally wrong and corruptive, "it is the way of a coward."

Mandela recalled, "Over and over again, we had used all the nonviolent weapons in our arsenal—speeches, deputations, threats, marches, strikes, stay-ways, voluntary imprisonment—all to no avail, for whatever we did was met by an iron hand."

Eventually, peaceful resistance proved ineffective in South Africa, igniting a defiant fire in the hearts and minds of the young people. After exhausting all their nonviolent options, Mandela concluded, "At the end of the day violence was the only weapon that would destroy apartheid."

However, what makes Mandela such a great leader is not that he led or approved of armed struggle, but that he led out into

forgiveness and the desire to consider how to make room for everyone. Moreover, his greatness lies in his humanity, his personal sacrifice and his unwavering commitment to freedom, justice and equality.

Given the similarity and degree of human oppression suffered under the discriminatory laws of apartheid and America's Jim Crow, I believe if King and Mandela had met and collaborated with each other they would have had much knowledge to exchange.

King would have emphasized and encouraged Mandela to never lose sight of the moral imperative of his struggle. He would want Mandela to understand and appreciate that violence should never be viewed as a means to an end. It can never ensure a peaceful and sustainable victory. Violence will only consume the human spirit and undermine the very purpose it is intended for. King's dialogue with Mandela would most certainly have centered on peace, forgiveness and the righteousness and victory of struggle. The fundamental question King would be preoccupied with is how we, in the process of struggle, can be compassionate, forgiving and inclusive of others. How can we create a new and more empathetic human relationship?

Mandela would certainly have agreed with King on many of the moral issues. Mandela's greatest challenge and legacy is his courage, foresight and vision to see beyond the violence. He would offer his assessment of the rebellious anger of youth who become distrustful and dis-

illusioned over nonviolent responses to violent assaults. He would have explained that these encounters create and prepare the next generation with warrior mindsets, which is exactly what we are facing in the U.S.

There were several historical parallels between the freedom struggle in the United States and that of the movement in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela's path to reconciliation and forgiveness came at the end of a long, bitter and bloody struggle for freedom. As with the Civil Rights movement against Jim Crow in the United States, the freedom struggle in South Africa began with a series of non-violent challenges against the brutal forces of apartheid.

Mandela argued that the oppressors not only determined the level of violence; they also ensured the method and degree of resistance. When peaceful measures prove ineffective and rendered impossible, violent means become inevitable. This is by no means an argument for indiscriminate violence. It is a critical acknowledgement of a heightened repression under apartheid, which produced a violent form of political resistance: armed struggle.

The important similarity with Mandela and King is that they did not see some human lives as more valuable than others. Both men exemplified a paradox of being both humble and fiercely principled. When principles are tempered with love for humanity, or when love for humanity has disciplined principles, you find that rare paradox of a person who is humble in their interactions yet unshakable in their convictions. When unexpected love and forgiveness are wielded fiercely and proactively, they have real power to heal.

Prisoners Take Steps Toward Saving Millions on Health Care Before Release From Incarceration

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco prisoners are enrolling in health care to take effect when they are released from jail, potentially saving the county millions of dollars, local newspapers report.

“A reduction in criminal behavior and repeated incarcerations associated with chronic health conditions is expected,” Public Health Director Barbara Garcia wrote in a report.

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi pro-

posed the change, saying, “The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department will be one of the first county jail systems in the nation that’s officially designated to enroll inmates into the Affordable Care Act,” also known as Obamacare.

About 90 percent of the inmates at the county jail are eligible for the new health care law, Mirkarimi said. His office told the *San Francisco Chronicle* the move could save taxpayers approximately \$2,500 a year for each inmate who signs up.

The program could set up free or low-cost medical care for the majority of the 31,000 people incarcerated in San Francisco jails yearly after they are released, the *Chronicle* reported.

According to Mirkarimi, an estimated 90 percent of people in county jails around the country have no health insurance, and that same number are eligible for subsidized health care under the act. In California, many of those being released from county jail would qualify for Medi-Cal, which is avail-

able for individuals making less than \$15,857 a year, and covers medical treatment, mental health and drug treatment deemed medically necessary.

Officials say prisoners are more likely to suffer from a variety of chronic health conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, as well as needing chronic drug treatment programs and mental health services prior to release.

Mirkarimi projects a 20 percent reduction in future arrests

for those prisoners who sign up before they hit the streets. “The vast majority of jail detainees have no private or public health insurance or the financial resources for medical care upon release,” he said in his written statement.

“Having access to medical care, mental health and drug treatment is so important for this population. I think this (proposal) is going to improve public safety,” said Jeanne Woodford, former San Quentin warden.

San Quentin Inmates Embrace Yoga

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Yoga classes are so popular at San Quentin that some prisoners improvise to find a place to practice.

One of those prisoners is Bruce “Rahsaan” Banks, who leads a small group of inmates in yoga in the gym on Saturday and Sunday mornings, which are the only days it is open.

“I caught people’s interest, who noticed I knew exactly what I was doing. That led to teaching, which is very rewarding because it helps me give back to my community,” Banks said.

James Fox, founder and director of the Prison Yoga Project, has instructed San Quentin inmates in yoga for 12 years. He teaches yoga to a military veteran class as well as two different groups of regular inmates on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which has a waiting list of 20-25 inmates.

The waiting list led prisoners to improvise. “I have been on

the waiting list for over a year. I really want to participate because yoga can help me deal with my stress,” said prisoner Noah Wright.

“I’m in the veteran class, but I’m looking for as many opportunities to practice as I can get,” said inmate Leroy Williams Jr. He is trying to get into another class, and goes to the gym to practice moves he has seen on television and in Fox’s book, *Yoga: A Path for Healing and Recovery*.

Yoga is like a medication that many need to help maintain their peace.

A recent Oxford University study found prisoners who went through a 10-week yoga program had a more positive mood, were less stressed and performed better on a computer test of their impulse control, according to a Sept. 20, 2013 *Post-Media News* article written by Douglas Quan.

“Yoga has all kinds of proven benefits, especially for trauma-impacted people. It’s the mind-

body connection; it’s the glue to the cognitive and emotional work the guys do in their groups. It helps relieve stress, PTSD, ADHD, hypertension, chronic pain and keeps one calm. Ideally, it should be practiced every other day,” Fox said.

“Yoga is important to me because it provides peace and tranquility, as well as mental and physical wellness. It’s poetry in motion,” commented Banks. “That’s why I take the opportunity to practice whenever the gym is open or room in a class is available.”

Roger Brown, who recently paroled, first introduced and instructed Banks in yoga at California Men’s Colony-East. Now Banks can do yoga positions like the “open wing eagle.”

Fox says he would teach another class if there were available spaces. In the meantime, he gives out copies of his instructional book and recommends moves prisoners can do in their cells. The focus is always on breathing.

Wellness Corner

By Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

Vegetables are a great source of nutrition and the gateway to good health, but the San Quentin Prison population is falling short in receiving this important food source, according to an informal survey.

The United States Department of Agriculture advises women to eat at least two and a half cups of veggies per day, and advises that men should eat at least three.

Joan Salge, the author of “Nutrition & You,” says Americans usually get about one and a half cups – way below the recommended amount. However, California state prisoners may be consuming even less than this.

W. Williams, a San Quentin prisoner housed in West Block, complained that the dining hall only serves one vegetable a day. He does not eat the salad because he thinks the dressing makes it too soggy. Williams is not alone. The survey found roughly 60 percent of the inmates said they eat just one vegetable per day.

B. Banks says that he is not getting enough vegetables and even these are over-cooked.

According to San Quentin’s Assistant Food Manager, “San Quentin is in compliance with Title 15 (Crime Prevention and Corrections Code), which mandates we comply with the RDA (recommended daily allowance). Our menu is analyzed through Sacramento. We provide these veggies on a daily average. We are working to include more fresh fruits and veggies,” he said. In other words, the vegetable requirements are, on average, met over the course of a week.

The code specifies, “Each inmate shall be provided a wholesome, nutritionally balanced diet.” However, the code mentions specific allowances of fresh vegetables only in reference to pregnant female inmates.

Getting extra vegetables can present a challenge in prison because prisoners must eat what they are served. V. Ngyuen, a San Quentin prisoner, claims he only started eating vegetables after he came to prison. Now he thinks he does not get enough veggies and tries to buy them on the tier. “I like green beans, broccoli, bell peppers, onions and carrots. I try to eat them raw because they have more nutrients,” he said.

Correctional Guards Want Transfers From Facilities Connected to Valley Fever

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

California needs to “make it easier” for prison guards to transfer away from facilities where there is a danger of valley fever, the correctional officers’ union said in a report by *Bakersfield Californian*.

Valley fever has killed three employees and sickened 103 others over the last four years, said Jevaughn Baker, spokesman for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

A court has ordered the state to move about 2,600 inmates at risk of contracting valley fever

out of Avenal and Pleasant Valley prisons, Baker said.

Baker said the union sent a letter to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in July asking that employees at high risk of contracting valley fever be free to transfer to other facilities.

“We received the letter and are working on a response, which should be ready within 30 days,” CDCR press secretary Jeffery Callison said in February. He added that the department does not quibble with the findings of a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study that concluded prisoners at Avenal and Pleas-

ant Valley state prisons are infected with valley fever at a much higher rate than the general population.

The state had commissioned the study because it was trying to find ways to reduce the rate of infection at the prisons, Callison said. “We’ve already been implementing some of the recommendations and others will be looked at in the future,” he said.

For now, the prison is taking precautionary measures such as improving ventilation, putting in door sweeps to block outside dust and avoiding any unnecessary disturbing of dirt, Callison said.

Advocates Link Prison Arts-in-Corrections Program With Drop in Recidivism

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

Advocates say inmates who participated in Arts-in-Corrections and paroled are far less likely to return to prison.

Since California claims the highest recidivism rate in the country, Sen. Ted Lieu said the state could afford to use \$3-5

million of its \$2 billion plus surplus to mitigate recidivism.

Studies show that inmate art students generate fewer disciplinary problems and 70 percent of parolees are still out of prison after two years, a 40 percent improvement when compared to the general prison population.

“(V)irtually all of arrested prisoners will come out one day,” Lieu said. “They will go back to our communities, and the question is, do you want them to commit more crimes, or do you want them to have a better way to express themselves, manage their emotions, learn new skills and be productive members of society?”

With studies and the support of groups like the California Arts Council and Tim Robbins’ Actors’ Gang behind him, Lieu said he plans to re-submit a request to restore arts in prison programs.

Many of San Quentin’s Arts-in-Corrections programs are made available to inmates through donations by the Wil-

liam James Foundation, including Zoe Mullery’s Creative Writing Class.

Mullery has taught creative writing in San Quentin for 15 years.

“The majority of people who come to my class are people that I feel are really working on being a person of integrity,” Mullery said.

Inmates Hold Jehovah’s Witness Passover Memorial Service

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

As the sun went down on April 4, San Quentin’s Catholic Chapel opened its doors for a Jehovah’s Witness Passover memorial service. Lee Tomaselo, Doug Niman and Paul Dawson, three Jehovah’s Witness brothers from the community, held the service for several dozen inmates. Jehovah’s Witness brothers greeted the guests as they arrived. The greeters were inmates Richard Richardson, Aaron Martin, Richard Meyer, Darryl Kennedy and Marvin Arnold. “The greatest act of love” was God’s sacrifice of His first-born son, said Brother Niman. The memorial service was intended to recognize and appreciate this deed. “Why did He do this is what this talk is about,” he said. Niman read from Luke 22:19-20 as the basis for the memorial service. He explained to the audience why mankind in biblical times needed deliverance and the significance of Jesus’ death

in accomplishing this. “Humans needed to be delivered because of sin,” he said. He went on to explain how this sin originated with Adam’s consumption of the forbidden fruit. “As Adam’s sin condemned all mankind, Jesus’ perfect life saved all mankind.”

“Why did he do this is what this talk is about”

“Jesus instituted a different way of dealing with His people,” said Richardson. Nowadays, this change is represented by a series of sacraments during the memorial service. Participants received unleavened Matzah crackers during the ceremony. Eating the bread symbolizes the act of once again becoming perfect and sinless, he said. “The cup represents a new covenant with God and the virtue of the blood of Christ.” Prison regulations, however, would not

permit the inmates to receive wine. During the memorial, the inmates also sang *Hail Jehovah’s Firstborn* and *The Lord’s Evening Meal*. This memorial celebration occurs in 236 countries around the world, Niman told the audience. “Passover begins at sunset in New Zealand and goes around the world.” Last year, more than 19 million worldwide attended memorial services, according to Niman. “There were 8 million Jehovah’s Witnesses, so the majority of people who attended the memorial were not Jehovah’s Witnesses,” he said. According to Niman, memorial services happen everywhere in the world; in homes, prisons and even in bomb shelters. He said there are services even in places where practicing Jehovah’s Witness is banned. Jehovah’s Witness meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for English-speaking inmates and on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and noon for Spanish-speaking inmates.

S.Q. Congregation Celebrates Easter Banquet in Catholic Chapel

“How good it is for brothers and sisters
to come together in unity and love”

By A. Kevin Valvardi
Journalism Guild Writer

The congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church at San Quentin came together in celebration during their annual Easter Banquet. The banquet was held on Sunday evening, April 27, from 5:30 – 7:45 p.m., in the main sacristy of the Catholic chapel, and was attended by numerous inside and outside church members and guests. The celebration began with

a reading from the Gospel and a prayer by the pastor, Fr. George Williams. The serving of a sumptuous meal by several kitchen workers and other Catholic prisoners followed it. “How good it is for brothers and sisters to come together in unity and love,” stated Shai Alkebulan, regarding the event. The parishioners and other attendees were treated to turkey, hot links, flour tortillas, Spanish rice, baked potatoes and buttered broccoli, with a

taco meat substitute for the vegetarians. In case that was not quite enough, there was frosted cake and ice cream for dessert. Reiterating the sentiments of others at his table, Patrick Flynn exclaimed, “It’s a really wonderful meal and we’re very grateful.” “I’m just happy that you guys are able to have a good meal, and that the good Lord has been smiling on you,” stated outside parishioner “Mother” Earline Gilbert.

Affordable Care Act Benefits Ex-Prisoners After Incarceration

‘We just take them to the end of incarceration, and drop them off a cliff’

Continued from Page 1

able health care,” said the Magazine. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, to assist newly released inmates from San Francisco County Jail, last January, Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi introduced legislation to the Board of Supervisors that would make it standard protocol for the sheriff’s office to help inmates sign up for Obamacare. “The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department will be one of the first county jail systems in the nation that’s officially designated to enroll inmates,” Mirkarimi said in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article. Obamacare would save tax-

payers millions of dollars by reducing the number of newly released people who receive treatment in emergency rooms, according to the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department. “Enhancing access to integrated health care for the uninsured is not only a wise public health move, but it’s also wise public safety strategy,” Mirkarimi said in the *Chronicle*. “There is nexus between repeat incarceration and poor chronic health, especially people suffering with mental illness or substance addiction.” According to the *Chronicle*, when inmates were released and needed medical or mental health care, they had to fend for themselves. Often, that

process led them back to jail or prison, as they were unable to find affordable health care. *“Health care for former inmates should be viewed as a public safety issue”* Under Mirkarimi’s plan, the city will save about \$2,500 per year for each inmate it enrolls, as county jail inmates are more likely to have chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma and

RELIGION

Emotions Flow as San Quentin Shows Passion of The Christ

By Jarvis “Lady Jae” Clark
Journalism Guild Writer

There were tears and a standing ovation as about 100 San Quentin inmates viewed a film on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. “I was extremely moved. It’s like I’m at a loss for words,” said Curtis Jefferson, an inmate who viewed the *Passion of the Christ* movie for the first time. It was the annual showing of the Academy Award-winning production of the film directed by Mel Gibson. It’s the film story of courage and sacrifice. It depicts the final 12 hours in the life of Jesus Christ, and His resurrection on the third day. Attendance was moderate, but *Passion of The Christ* was well received. Chaplain Mardi R. Jackson hosted the April 18 event. Jackson has been with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for more than nine years. She is the first woman Protestant chaplain at San Quentin. She has been with the Garden Chapel nearly three years. “Hurt and sorrow” were but a few emotions Jackson expressed while watching *Passion*. “I feel His suffering and gratefulness for His sacrifices,” said Jackson. “The gift of eternal life that because of Him, we now have.” “When Jesus was on the cross, even after He was crucified, after all that He had been through, He still found forgiveness in His heart,” said inmate Dean Felton, 46.

“And He looked up to the heavens and asked His Father, our God, to forgive them, ‘for they know not what they do.’ Wow!” *“How He was treated, no mortal man today could’ve stood that punishment, and live today”*

Passion of the Christ was subtitled, because it was filmed in Aramaic, an ancient language of the people and culture in southwestern Asia. A number of viewers said they found it to be easy reading, and followed the plot without missing any action. “How He was treated, no mortal man today could’ve stood that punishment, and live today. Meaning: that He died for our sins. I really believe that,” said inmate James H. Horsted, 70. “Passion of the Christ means for me love, mercy, cherish and treat people the way He loved us all.” Inmate Ron Koehler said, “The movie is incomplete. It doesn’t show the true power of Christ, His power over death. It showed the interruption in Christ, not the perfection.” The movie screened on Good Friday, the day He was executed, and two days before Easter Sunday, the day scripture reports He rose from the dead.

arthritis, as well as substance abuse and mental problems, according to the sheriff’s department. “Health care for former inmates should be viewed as a public safety issue,” said Jeanne Woodford, former warden of San Quentin Prison and senior fellow at Berkeley’s Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, in the *Chronicle*. The U.S. has had an “epidemic of incarceration over the last four decades,” said Josiah Rich, professor of medicine and epidemiology at Brown University. Rich said there is little argument over why the national prison population soared from a stable 200,000 inmates to

over 2,000,000 in the past few decades. He said that President Ronald Reagan defunded federal mental health programs more than three decades ago and as a result, many people landed on the streets. Today, many of those make their beds in prisons and jails. According to Rich, in the early 1980s, the number of inmates began to skyrocket as many of the patients were not treated, and were picked up by the criminal justice system. “We just take them to the end of incarceration, and drop them off a cliff and say ‘good luck,’” Rich said in *Newsweek*. If all you have is a hammer, pretty soon, everything looks like a nail.

California Appeals Court Rules Felons ‘Physically’ In Possession of a Firearm Qualify as a Strike

By C. Kao
Journalism Guild Member

The California Court of Appeals ruled that a felon “physically” in possession of a firearm qualifies as a third strike under the state’s for Three Strikes law.

The news is a setback for the state’s 280 third-strikers whose third strike was possession of a firearm and who were attempting to be re-sentenced and released under Proposition 36, the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012.

California voters overwhelmingly approved the Reform Act in November 2012.

The Act excludes defendants who were armed with a firearm or deadly weapon during the commission of a crime.

In California, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon is a felony, and under pre-Proposition 36 qualifies as a third strike.

Before the Reform Act, any felony could count as a third

strike and required a minimum sentence of 25 years to life. After the Act, the third strike has to be a serious or violent felony.

With the passage of Proposition 36, Superior Court judges around the state began issuing conflicting decisions on whether defendants qualify for re-sentencing. The question, precisely, was whether someone convicted of simply *possessing* a firearm was in fact armed during the commission of the crime.

In Kern County, two judges rejected requests to resentence prisoners serving Three Strikes sentences for gun possession, while a third judge granted such a request, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

According to the *Times*, a judge in Santa Clara County also made a ruling that being a felon in possession of a firearm did not disqualify a third-striker from a sentence reduction under Proposition 36.

Yet a San Diego Superior Court judge ruled otherwise and denied the re-sentencing request

of Mark Anthony White.

In denying White’s request, the court found he was ineligible for re-sentencing because he was *armed* with a firearm during the commission of his current offense--- possession of a firearm by a felon--- within the meaning of the “armed with a firearm”

exclusion set forth in the act.

On appeal, the superior court ruling stood. White has spent nearly two decades behind bars for felony gun possession.

The decision, however, suggests that *constructive possession* of a firearm by a felon (e.g., having a gun in the trunk of a

car one is driving) may open a possibility for defendants whose third strikes were felony gun possession and whose records indicate they only constructively possessed the firearm.

The state Supreme Court will decide if it will hear an appeal of the ruling.

State’s Prison Agency Predicts 10,000 More Inmates in Five Years

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

The California prison population is expected to grow by 10,000 inmates in five years, according to forecasts from the state’s prison agency.

The increase could complicate Gov. Jerry Brown’s effort to reduce prison overcrowding in response to a court order capping the inmate population at 137.5 percent of design capacity, The Los Angeles Times reports. The judges ruled prison overcrowd-

ing has created unconstitutionally dangerous conditions.

To reduce prison overcrowding, Brown implemented the Realignment Plan in 2011. Realignment requires the state’s 58 counties to keep low-level offenders in its county jails rather than sending them to state prison.

The hike will occur even with Brown’s plan to add 3,700 more prison beds over the next two years. The projected increase comes after six years of declines, according to the California De-

partment of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

“Our department gathers data like this so that we can project our future populations”

However, *Times* reported that the reason for the increasing prison population is unclear. The article cites that County prosecutors “dispute claims” they are “pursuing charges that put felons in prison instead of jail.”

The state reports the number of felons arriving in prison with two strikes began to rise immediately after the Legislature passed Brown’s realignment program in late 2011. Two Strikers make up more than 34,000 inmates, a record high.

A copy of a document that administration officials showed the prosecutors group displays a handful of counties responsible for most of the increase. They are led by Riverside and Fresno, which increased second strike convictions by 34 percent and 86 percent, respectively.

The new projections were released in late December, months later than normal. Corrections officials said the report was not deliberately delayed but subject to several months of internal review, prolonged by the need to explain the shift in direction.

“Our department gathers data like this so that we can project our future population and make appropriate staffing, facility and funding decisions,” said department spokesman Jeffrey Callison.

American Bar Association Suggests Need To Start Reducing Excessive Criminalization

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

America needs to curb excessive criminalization of its people, according to the chair of the American Bar Association.

“Reducing over-criminalization saves taxpayer money and improves the lives of all citizens,” said ABA Chairman William Shepherd.

America clearly needs a comprehensive review of the over-use of criminal law, said Shepherd, who represents more than 400,000 attorneys nationally. He made the comment in a June 2013 appearance before the House Task Force on Over-Criminalization.

Inappropriately federalized crimes cause serious problems in the administration of justice, according to Shepherd. The federal legal system is facing the same problems states are facing. One of the principal

problems is that inappropriately federalized crimes threaten the fundamental allocation of responsibility between state and federal governments.

“Reducing over-criminalization saves taxpayer money and improves the lives of all citizens”

Testimony included facts about other ABA authorities. As an example, one aspect of the overuse of federal law in criminal prosecutions is that it increases unreviewable federal prosecutorial discretion. The immense number of laws are traps to the unwary and threaten people who would never consider breaking the law, former Attorney General

Edwin Meese said at the ABA Fall Conference.

Shepherd said there are many examples of laws that impose criminal penalties, including jail or imprisonment, without a requirement to find criminal intent.

Shepherd said over-criminalization factors into the mass incarceration cost to taxpayers. According to his testimony, in 2011 there were nearly 7 million offenders under supervision in the United States adult penal system.

With more than 2.2 million in prison or jail, almost half are incarcerated for non-violent offenses, studies show. Reducing prison populations has shown no marked increase in crime or effect on public safety, according to the three-judge panel overseeing California’s prison overcrowding problem.

Taxpayers spend about \$53.5 billion to maintain state prisons (20 percent in California

alone), and another \$6.5 billion for federal prisons, reports the *VERA Institute of Justice*. The federal government houses more than 200,000 people for about \$6.5 billion, while the state of California houses about 120,000 people for twice that figure, the institute reported.

Shepherd said the impact is far greater than just the unnecessary financial burdens shouldered by taxpayers. It is clear there is much damage to the lives of those incarcerated in the over-criminalization binge, said Shepherd. He said that incarceration has been proven to have a negative impact on future income, employment prospects and family of those affected.

The *VERA Institute* cites evidence-based statistics which it says show there is virtually no evidence to support assumptions that prison sentences affect crime, recidivism, or public safety.

Research Links Family Connections With Fewer Behavioral Problems

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Research suggests that incarcerated youth who receive visits, phone calls and letters have fewer behavior problems and perform better in school.

The research on incarcerated adults, done by the Vera Institute of Justice, said there is “limited research” as to whether family visits affect the behavior of incarcerated adults.

“Vera researchers found that family visitation of incarcerated youth was associated with improved behavior and school performance,” the study said.

“These findings highlight the importance of visitation and sug-

gest that juvenile correctional facilities should try to change their visitation policies to promote more frequent visitation with families,” the study reported.

Vera research staff visited four youth correctional facilities to survey volunteer offenders. Survey questions queried participants about their perception of contact with family by either visit, letter or telephone.

“The analysis explored the relationship between family visitation and two juvenile correctional outcomes: 1) behavioral incident rates and 2) grade-point average (GPA),” it was reported.

According to the study, researchers examined incidents of behavior rates of youths who re-

ceive no visits, infrequent visits and regular visits. The association of visits and GPAs were also studied.

“Youth who were never visited had statistically significant higher behavioral incident rates compared to youth who were visited infrequently or youth who received regular visits,” Vera Institute reported.

For youth who received regular visits, their behavior incidents per month were four; for those who received infrequent visits, their incidents per month was six; and for youths who never received visits, their incidents per month rose to 14, the study reported.

The research focused, in part,

on public safety when offenders returned to their communities. “Phone calls, letter-writing, and visitation with family members, and other so-called ‘pro-social supports,’ help sustain these relationships,” the study reported.

The study indicates visiting may be associated with positive youth behavior. “Youth who had never received a visit exhibited the highest rates of behavioral incidents; as visitation frequency increased, the number of behavioral incidents decreased,” the study reported.

The study said behavior among youth who most often received visits was associated with an “improved or higher GPA.”

Benefits resulting from youth

who receive family visits are often met with “significant barriers.” Distance is one of these barriers when a juvenile is placed in a facility far from home, because these youths are less likely to receive a visit during confinement, the study said.

“Similarly, although frequent visitation was associated with a higher GPA, it is unclear if school performance changed (improved or decreased) after the incarceration,” the report concluded.

“Facilities can benefit immensely by changing their visitation policies to encourage frequent contact between family and incarcerated youth,” the report concluded.

Prisoner Freed After Spending Almost 25 Years Behind Bars

‘For a long time I thought I was in control of my addictions’

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Robert “Red” Frye stepped out the gates of San Quentin a free man on April 17, after almost 25 years of incarceration. Convicted for his role in a murder in Long Beach CA in 1989. Frye arrived at San Quentin in 2000.

“For a long time in prison I was stoic,” Frye said. Because he was not the triggerman in his crime, “I was in denial about my culpability and responsibility in the murder.”

In 2004, Frye started to transform the way he thought about his crime after joining the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG).

“I was in the second VOEG group at San Quentin with Rochelle Edwards, and I began to look at my crime in a different way because of this group,” Frye said. “The group helped me to take responsibility.”

The night before Frye paroled, he spoke to the graduates of the VOEG Next Step group in the Protestant Chapel. “Here I am leaving after 25 years of incarceration and I see a room full of men that are worthy, maybe more worthy than me, to go out there and be productive members of society,” he said.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Leroy Lucas and Robert “Red” Frye in the Protestant Chapel

He also admitted that he still had some rough edges, but he was willing to work on them.

Frye acknowledged the Restorative Justice and Narcotics Anonymous groups had a huge impact on his life as well.

“For a long time, I thought I was in control of my addictions, but I wasn’t,” Frye

said. “NA helped me with my spirituality,” something Frye admits he was lacking for a while.

When Frye began to attend the Catholic services at San Quentin, he realized that he needed some personal work. “Church helped me with my deceptive nature, my lying,

manipulating and all that I thought I need to do as a prisoner,” said Frye.

“In the past I put on a façade, and wore a tough guy mask so I wouldn’t be messed with,” Frye acknowledged.

But, the death of his cellie, Ricky Earl, in 2007 made the biggest mark upon his life.

“I became Ricky’s hospice nurse when he was dying of cancer,” Frye said. “Ricky and I were born five days apart, and we became really close. I helped him get his G.E.D.,” Frye said proudly.

He says the experience of caring for Earl changed his life. “His death and journey allowed me to be vulnerable and break down my walls,” said Frye. “I cried more for that man than anything else in my life.”

Earl’s death was a clear and defining moment in Frye’s life.

On Frye’s last night in San Quentin, he admitted that he was going to miss the men he was leaving behind. He told the story of a man who left San Quentin almost 10 years ago. This guy compared leaving prison to having survivor’s guilt. “He said it was like being the lone survivor of a plane crash,” said Frye.

Frye said he was going to take some time to adjust to the transition to living life as a free man before he decides what he wants to do with his life.

“One thing I want to do is get my feet wet in the ocean,” said Frye. That dream came true on April 17 in Stinson Beach.

The Chicago Bureau: Obama’s Administration Scrutinizes ‘Zero Tolerance’ Policies

By R. Malik Harris
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama’s administration criticizes zero-tolerance policies, which often turn schoolchildren into criminals, according to Susan Du of *The Chicago Bureau*.

The White House acknowledges that the so-called “school-to-prison pipeline,” the term used by the American Civil Liberties Union to explain the connection between expelled schoolchildren and high juvenile incarceration rates, is real.

“A routine school disciplinary infraction should land a student in the principal’s office, not in a police precinct,” said U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, in a report by *The Dallas Morning News*. Zero-tolerance poli-

cies became popular following the Columbine school shooting in 1999. Such policies “spell out uniform and swift punishment for offenses such as truancy, smoking or carrying a weapon.”

“A routine school disciplinary infraction should land a student in the principal’s office, not in a police precinct”

The Chicago Bureau reported that zero-tolerance policies are applied to black and Hispanic

students more than to white students, even though U.S. Department of Education statistics show both groups are breaking the rules at an equal rate. The disparity is greater in school districts where African-American and Hispanic children make up a fraction of the student body.

New York City provides an example of the disparate treatment of African-Americans, who make up about one-third of the student population, according to Mychal Denzel Smith of *Nation* magazine. *Nation* cites Molly Knefel of *Rolling Stone* magazine, who revealed that during Michael Bloomberg’s tenure as mayor, half of the students suspended were African-American.

Recommendations by the Obama administration are

meant to encourage school districts throughout the country to end racially disproportionate practices that criminalize the behavior of minorities. *The Dallas Morning News* reports that the administration will work out “voluntary settlements” when federal civil rights of children in schools are violated.

Daniel Domenech, executive director of the School Superintendents Association in Texas, called out-of-school suspensions “outdated” in the 21st century, according to *The Dallas Morning News*. However, there has been little to no federal funding for alternative solutions to juvenile delinquency, such as restorative justice measures, the report finds.

Mariame Kaba, founding director of Project NIA, a non-

profit Chicago-based organization working to minimize juvenile exposure to the criminal justice system, is working to replace zero-tolerance policies with restorative justice solutions in the Chicago Public School District, *The Chicago Bureau* reports.

Kaba discussed creating “peace rooms” for children in the schools to resolve conflict and disciplinary problems rather than arresting and charging them. Kaba trains teachers and school administrators to operate “peace circles” for students as a way to reverse the “school-to-prison pipeline” effect.

Kaba told *The Chicago Bureau* that the response by the administration to zero-tolerance policies has “validated” their work and advocacy.

Judge Lambden Speaks About the Differences Between the Prison and Court System

Continued from Page 1

First I always wanted to, and as luck would have it, I was invited by the Hope for Strikers and Lifers Group. I’m looking forward to this time with you today,” the judge said.

A leader of the inmate group, Forrest Jones, said, “We wanted to bring him in to have a dialogue where we could share with him and he could share with us.” Jones said two of the founders of the group, Eddie Griffin and Sajid Shakoor, have since paroled under Proposition 36.

Jones is serving a 25-year-to-life term for burglary under the Three Strikes Law. He said he thinks Proposition 36 might

help many prisoners earn parole.

Judge Lambden expressed his views regarding the future of Proposition 36 and California prisons.

Proposition 36 modifies the Three Strikes Law approved by California voters in 1994 – to impose a life sentence only when the third felony conviction is serious or violent, Lambden commented. It also allows prisoners currently serving life for a third strike to apply for re-sentencing if their crime was not serious or violent.

“Right now there are three important cases regarding Proposition 36: People v. McCloud D063459 and People v. White D063369, were denied

January of this year. People v. Soto, B249197 is still pending in the courts,” Lambden said.

The main question in McCloud was the distinction between being armed and having possession of a weapon in the underlying qualifying offense. Either way, these cases are going to affect those within the framework of Proposition 36, Lambden said.

For over two decades, Judge Lambden worked across San Francisco Bay from San Quentin. During those times, he wanted to learn more about prisons, but he could not because of the way the system is set up, he commented.

“I was prevented from expanding my knowledge of

prisons because when you become a judge, you lose a lot of your first amendment rights,” Lambden said.

Before his retirement, Lambden sat on the bench for 25 years, and after being sworn in, he said, his role changed from ordinary citizen to an officer of the California Court of Appeals, 1st District, Division 2.

“After that, I had to be careful when I discussed politics, because as a judge, I had influence and I wasn’t supposed to speak about any matters that came before me like politics, or prisons that involved politics,” Lambden said.

Judge Lambden was appointed as a judge to the Alameda

County Superior Court by Gov. George Deukmejian in 1989. Lambden said the first two years he worked on felony cases. That “taught me a lot, and not only about criminal law, but I learned a heck of a lot about sentencing,” said Lambden.

In 1996, Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Judge Lambden to the Court of Appeals. Since then there has been a big swing in prison reform, which revolves around public opinion, Lambden said.

“There are several changes coming on the horizon since the voters approved Proposition 36,” said Lambden. “With the laws always changing, we’ll just have to wait and see.”

1. Juneau, Alaska—Goose Creek, the state’s newest prison, was built in 2012. It is 64 inmates short of its housing capacity of 1,472 inmates, reports The Associated Press. Alaskans pay \$58,000 a year to house each of the state’s inmates. The state Senate recently passed a bill designed to find alternatives to incarceration and to re-evaluate its sentencing laws.

2. Portland, Oregon—Parenting Inside Out (PIO) — a program designed to “give parents skills to parent their children from prison and when they return to the community, reduce recidivism through strengthening family connections, and reduce intergenerational criminality”— is now included on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. More information can be found at www.parentinginsideout.org.

3. Sacramento—Morgan Stanley is leading a deal that would generate \$793 million in bond revenues to fund two new in-fill construction projects, one at Mule Creek and the other at Richard Donovan Correctional Facility. Construction at the two sites is slated to begin in May, Reuters reported.

4. Folsom—The California Prison Industry Authority, along with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, has launched a Computer-Aided Design certification program at the Folsom Women’s Facility. The first-of-its-kind training program will also assist participants in obtaining jobs in architectural, mechanical or engineering fields upon their parole, reports the Sierra Sun Times.

5. Oakland—Operation Ceasefire is the centerpiece of Mayor Jean Quan’s crime reduction plan and a key to her re-election campaign, reports The San Francisco Chronicle. Oakland launched Operation Ceasefire in



2012. In the Chronicle report, Kevin Grant — who runs street outreach for the program — said it is a chance for ex-offenders to “get on the right tract and end up at a good station.”

6. Boise, Idaho—Corrections Corporation of America is under investigation for an Idaho prison with a reputation so violent, inmates reportedly dubbed it “Gladiator School,” reports The Associated Press. The Federal Bureau of Investigations began investigating accusations of rampant understaffing at the prison in February.

7. Huntsville, Texas—Ray Jasper, 33, was executed by lethal injection on March 19, reports The Associated Press. Jasper was convicted for a knife attack and robbery more than 15 years ago that killed a recording studio

owner.

8. St. Paul, Minn—Restore the Vote Coalition is lobbying state legislators to change state law to restore the voting rights of felons who have served their time, reports Minnesota Public Radio News. “It’s a civil rights issue that will allow thousand of people to have a say in the political process,” RVC representatives said in the report.

9. Hutchinson, Kan.—The state’s department of corrections has developed a mentorship program that has connected some 150 inmates with 110 life skills mentors, reports The Hutchinson News. Since the program began in 2012, nearly 3,350 matches have been made with about 700 offenders completing its one-year curriculum.

10. Chicago—About 100 inmates who were juveniles when they were convicted of murder and given mandatory life terms will receive a new sentencing

hearing following a recent ruling by the state Supreme Court, The Associated Press reports.

11. Peoria, Ill.—Christopher Coleman spent nearly 20 years in prison before the state’s attorney dropped all charges against him, reports The Journal Star. Coleman was convicted for the rape of a 16-year old girl in 1994. Problems with “the evidence, including the death of an eyewitness as well as others recanting their testimony,” led to charges being dropped in the interest of justice.

12. Richmond, Va.—DNA testing has cleared the name of Percell F. Warren, who died in December 2012 while serving a 160-year term for a 1996 rape. The Innocence Project has filed additional paperwork with the Virginia Supreme Court to clear Warren’s brother-in-law, Nathaniel E. Epps, who is serving a 153-year term for the same crime.

13. Montpelier, Vt.—The legislation currently under consideration to change the way drug-related crime is treated in the criminal justice system would be one of the most comprehensive state laws in the nation, according to a report by The Associated Press. The current diversion program has been reported as a “soaring success,” with at least 80 percent of participants conviction-free after a year.

14. Tallahassee, Florida—Robert Lavern Henry, 55, was executed by lethal injection on March 20, Reuters reports. In 1987, Henry was convicted for killing two of his co-workers.

U.S. Inmate Population Data Numbers Blurred

Continued from Page 1

conceive of prisons as separate from the rest of our society,” said PPI.

The study explains that “jail churn is particularly high because at any given moment most of the 722,000 people in local jails have not been convicted and are in jail because they are either too poor to make bail and are being held before trial, or because they’ve just been arrested and will make bail in the next few hours or days.”

PPI said there are “disparate systems of confinement in this country. The study found there are 1,719 state prisons in the U.S., 102 federal prisons, 2,259 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,283 local jails and 79 Indian Country jails.

“Now that we can, for the first time, see the big picture of how many people are locked up in the United States in the various types of facilities, we can see that something needs to change,” said PPI.

“The United States locks up more people per capita than any other nation. But grappling with why requires us to first consider the many types of correctional facilities and the reasons that people are confined there,” the report says.

The study reveals how drug categories for the incarcerated “carry an important caveat.” One example of this is the 15,000 children confined “whose most serious offense wasn’t anything that most people would consider a crime.”

PPI reported that nearly 12,000 children are locked up for “technical violations” of the conditions of their probation or parole, which has no association with a new offense.

Viewing incarceration by taking a whole-pie approach, PPI says, can provide Americans who are ready to take “a fresh look at the criminal justice system --- the tools they need to demand meaningful changes to how we do justice.” www.pris-onpolicy.org/reports/pic.html

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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CSP - San Quentin
Education Dept. / SQ News
San Quentin, CA 94964
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1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974

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SPORTS

Tennis Season Begins in S.Q.

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Inside Tennis Team kicked off its season against Sharon Skylor and her crew, with ITT winning two of the three matches.

Skylor and her partner, Lar-

ry Smith, won 4-0 against Tim Thompson and N. Young.

In two games where the net got tall, the victory came down to the deciding clutch point. Mark Jordan and Paul Alleyne managed to pull it out after a volley, defeating Smith, partnered with Jennifer, at 4-3. In the other nail-biter, ITT's Orlando Harris and Terry Slaughter defeated Smith and Jennifer, 4-3.

Skylor has been coming to play tennis in San Quentin for three to four years and just acquired her "Beige Card," which allows her to bring in approved guests to partner with. To get her beige card, she had to go

to a four- to five-hour training session and learn "every rule under the sun." Nevertheless, she says it was worth it.

"I really enjoy giving inmates a sense of normalcy. I think it's important to give inmates the opportunity to talk to someone who's not in prison," says Skylor. "Guys in here behave better than people on the outside."

"I'm glad the guests are back. I love talking to people who live normal lives. I like to ask about the latest tech," said Allyene.

"It's fun. I love teaching and seeing somebody who wants to learn. Try teaching your kids," said Smith. He has been playing tennis since he was 7. He taught top-ranked juniors in Southern California and also a boys and girls team.

Smith learned about playing tennis inside San Quentin against inmates from a movie with the Bryan brothers. He thought it was cool and wanted in. Now he loves it.

"It's always the most fun,



Photo By Raphaelae Casale

Ronnie Mohamad, Sharon Skylor, Rick Hunt and Paul Alleyne

most interesting group of guys, much more fun than playing snotty club dudes," said Smith.

"These are a group of individuals with life stories, not just a bunch of trust-funders."



Photo By Raphaelae Casale

Terry Slaughter and Orlando Harris rallying.



Photo By Raphaelae Casale

Larry Smith and Jennifer

Thrilling Finish of 4x400 Relay Winds Up Meet

By **Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor**
Sports Writer

Carlos Ramirez ran down Eddie Herena – who had a 37-meter head start – in the last leg of the 4x400 relay race at the 1000 Mile Club's track meet in an exciting finish you wouldn't believe even if you saw it on CNN.

Ramirez passed Herena on the back stretch, turning the final corner and sprinted ahead with 15 yards left to the finish line.

"He was the better runner today," said Herena of Ramirez. "This morning, he is the winner."

The 4x400 meter relay was the final event of the morning filled with several races.

To begin the day, Bernard "Abdu'r RaHiym" Ballard, 40 years of age, won the One Mile event with a time of 5:39.

"Man, I just stretched. I thought about how bad my hamstring was killing me from running on Monday," said Ballard. It was Ballard's first win since becoming a member of the 1000-Mile Club. "It showed what I am capable of, and what I could be if I stay focused and dedicated."

Diana Fitzpatrick, one of the sponsors for the 1000-Mile Club, said, "It's a perfect morning for the track meet; great participation and effort by all the runners. We've gotten close to a couple of records, but none broken so far any way."

The 100-meter dash included separate races for those age 50 and over and under age 50. Tone "Barefoot Tone" Evans (50) won the 50-plus event against Dennis Barnes (64) with a time of 12:4, which he ran barefoot, and made it into the record books. Evans beat the former record

holder, Dallas Eaton, by a full second (13:12)

"I was chasing the 50 and over record. I now hold the record at San Quentin with the time of 12:4," said Evans. "Dallas Eaton was the former record-holder at 13:12. He was my mentor. Today, I am the greatest. I'm humble, but I snatched the pebble from my teacher's hand today,"

In the under-50 category, John "Dunie" Windham, 44, of Sacramento crossed the line in 11:1, followed by Jamar Smith, 33, from Los Angeles.

"I tip my hat to Dunie," said Smith. "It's a reason that they call him 'The man with the 24th chromosome.' He's 11 years older than I am, but he's built as if he plays semi-pro ball. I knew he was my only competition when we stepped to the line. He got me by a full second on the clock, 12:3. I respect that," said Smith.

In the 200-meter dash, Larry Ford, 58, took the 50-plus category with a time of 30:49.

"I eat these old dudes for breakfast," said Ford after the race. He beat Barnes, who is 64. "The youngster got me today," Barnes said, laughing.

Ralph Ligons, All-American track star for Sacramento State, 1971-74, stood at the finish line for all the events. "Today is fantastic! We have track meet level speed and, next time, we'll start a little later so more people can be involved." Ligons smiled as another group of half-milers came across the finish line. "It's always a pleasure to work with the guys who participate in the 1000-mile events."

One-MILE RUN: Bernard Ballard, 40, 5:39; Chris Scull, 35, 5:47; Jose Sandoval, 31, 6:12; Larry Ford, 58, 6:18; and Marlon Beason, 34, 8:22.

100M DASHES: 50-plus:

Barefoot Tone Evans 50, 12:41 and Dennis Barnes 64, 16:10.

Under 50: J. Windham 44, 11:1; J. Smith 33, 12:3; E. Scott 46, 13:2; Beason 34, 13:6; R. Thomas 43, 14:9.

QUARTER MILE: Carlos Ramirez, 36, 1:04:02; Stacy Bullock, 54, 1:12:45; E. Scott, 46, 1:18:46; Louis Hunter, 54, 1:21:33 and Beason, 34, 1:43

200M DASH: 50-plus: Larry Ford 58, 30:49 and Dennis Barnes 64, 34:03,

Under 50: J. Windham, 44, 23:54; Eric Sandoval, 31, 27:42; Abdu'l WaHid Moody, 44, 28:55 and Beason, 34 30:93.

HALF MILE: Eddie Herena, 30, 2:26:43; Miquel Quezada, 32, 2:48; L. Ford, 58, 5:05 and Beason, 34, 8:07.

4X400M RELAY: Evan, 50 (in shoes) v. Stacy, 54; Rahiym v. Chris; Quezada v. Sandoval and Eddie v. Carlos Ramirez: 4.24.65-4.21.13 respectively.

Bragging Rights Go to San Quentin Prison Report for Beating S.Q. News

By **Nate Collins**
Contributing Writer

San Quentin Prison Report won prison bragging rights by defeating the San Quentin News in a half-court game of four-on-four basketball, 31-18.

"I told you y'all couldn't beat us," bragged Troy Williams after the game was over.

The newspaper crew started off on the wrong foot, as several key players didn't show up to play, including Kris Himmelberger, Malik Harris, Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, JulianGlenn Padgett and Phoeun You.

"I was disappointed that we had no support. They had their whole team and we had to recruit people off the streets," said the News' Juan Haines.

The game took place in the gym on Saturday night, April 5, before a crowd of about 50 prisoners.

During the second play of the game, Report player Greg Eskridge came down over the News' Rahsaan Thomas' back with an accidental elbow to the temple. The blow opened up a cut which wouldn't stop bleeding and Thomas left the game for about 10 minutes.

"Whatever it takes to win," Eskridge joked about the mis-

hap.

The News started off with the lead as Haines scored from the three-point line, but it was short lived. Wallace "Sha" Stepter was on fire for the Report, hitting mid-range jumpers from everywhere. Meanwhile, Eskridge controlled the boards.

Down 28-14, the News tried to come back, but their efforts were stopped at 31-18 when Brian Asey hit the game-winning basket.

Stepter led the Report with 10 points, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll added seven, Williams scored five with seven rebounds, Eskridge score four with 13 rebounds.



Photo By Sam Hearnes

Harold "Boo" Meeks, Greg Eskridge,Wallace "Sha" Stepter, Andre Yancy, Troy Williams, Brian Asey, and Tommy Ross. Squatting down is: Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll

The Report posted a 40-20 rebounding edge.

Joe Demerson played for the short-handed News team and led with eight points.

Special rules applied where field goals counted as one point, except those from three-point range, which counted as two.

San Quentin Giants Fall to the Cubs, 11-10

By Aaron “Jeddi” Taylor
Sports Writer

It was the bottom of the ninth, the bases were loaded with a full count and the San Quentin Giants were trailing by one to the visiting Cubs. A hit or a walk would seal the victory. Don Spence stepped up to the plate, took a swing and grounded out to short. The Giants lost to the Cubs 11-10.

“We are not at all disappointed with Spence,” said Giants veteran utility man Mark Jordan. “This is his first game, in a big situation, and he laid a ball down that just happened to go to the shortstop, could’ve happened to any of us.”

The Giants beat the S.Q. A’s 3-2 the evening of April 10 to advance to the Cubs contest two mornings later.

Christopher “Cuddy Bo” Smith led the Giants going 4 for 5 with two singles and two doubles, with 4 RBI’s. He also stole two bases and struck out.

Jordan went two for three, hitting two singles and getting a walk.

In the third inning, Cubs player Mike went yard, clobbered a hanging curveball thrown by starting pitcher Mario Ellis. It sailed over the left field fence and the Education Building, giving the Cubs a 3-2 advantage.

Other noteworthy plays were the two catches made in right

field by Richard Zorns. On the first catch, there was a deep fly ball hit into right, where Zorns had to navigate through several geese – as well as inmates who were watching the game from the vantage point of the ARC Building gate – and tripped, falling down as he caught the ball, taking three spectators down with him.

The second catch was similar, with the added twist that Zorns had to get up and throw to the cut off man, which prevented the Cubs from going up a run.

“You know, it’s just an average play -- no biggie,” said Zorns after the game. “They were just routine plays.”

The Cubs benefited from a

few errors, notably by catcher Mike Tyler. “Mike’s usually a little better than that,” one of Giants players was overheard saying about the passed balls that scored runners.

The Giants stayed focused despite the numerous errors by several team members, and began their comeback, digging out of the deficit, and getting within the one run, ending the game at 11-10.

“I’m proud of the guys. This was the type of game that



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Christopher “Cuddy Bo” Smith on deck to bat

shows their character,” said Giants Manager Mike Deeble after the game. “With that type of camaraderie, we can get a winning season.”

Sports Roundup as the Spring Season Begins

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Sports is alive again with the spring season at San Quentin. Here’s what fans cheered about on the Lower Yard and gym:

The San Quentin Kings came back from a 16-point deficient, but turnovers caused them to fall short to the Bittermen, 65-56 on March 21. Steve S. led the Bittermen with 18 and Ted Saltveit was hot from three-point land, making four of six attempts. Larry “Ty” Jones led the Kings with 15 points, eight rebounds and five steals.

Christian Ministries softball team defeated the San Quentin

Hardtimers 19-14 despite Hardtimers’ John Windham going 4-5 at bat, including a homerun and two doubles on April 5.

The S.Q. Warriors basketball team won its season-opener against Shiloh, a new visitor team, 65-39. Allan McIntosh led the Warriors with 27 points, 16 rebounds, 4 assists, and a block. He was followed by Anthony Ammons’ 18 points, 15 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals and 2 blocks. S.Q.’s Ernest Dotson played for Shiloh and led with 15 points. James Soy added 14 in the April 12 contest.

The S.Q. Kings basketball team improved to 2-1 with an 81-63 win over The Bittermen.

Oris “Pep” Williams led the Kings with 14 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists and 2 steals. Tare “Cancun” Beltran added 9 points. Steve S. led The Bittermen with 12 points and 6 rebounds on April 12.

Inside Tennis Team won three of four matches against Ted Saltviet’s crew. Paul Alleyne and Rick Hunt lost 3-4 to Gilberto and Saltveit; Harrison and Tim Thompson won 4-2 vs. Gilberto and Thomas; N. Young and Terry Slaughter went 4-3 vs. Gilberto and Saltveit; and Raphael Calix and Paul Oliver scored 4-3 vs. Thomas and Saltveit on April 12.

Diyn Al’Haqq Brothers de-

feated Graced Out Ministries 40-32 in half-court basketball during week two of Show Up & Show Out Summertime Series in the gym. Craig “Qadree Abdul-Baatin” Birch led the Muslims with 10 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 block. Zayd Nicholson added 9 points on 50 percent shooting, with 10 boards and 2 blocks. John Windham led the Christians with 10 points, 2 assist and 1 block on April 12.

In Intramural League Basketball action, Franchise defeated Straight Balling 77-62. Micheal Franklin scored 23 points. Derek Loud posted 15 and Marcus Cosby had 13 points and 15 rebounds for the Franchise. Ed

Quinn led Straight Balling with 17 points and 12 rebounds on April 13.

The reigning champion Transformers picked up where they left off with a win over Net Zero. Transformers’ Maurice Hanks led all scores with 36 points, 19 rebounds, a steal and a block. Oris “Pep” Williams add 22 points with 9 boards, 4 assists, a steal and a block. DuPriest Brown added 16 with 9 boards, 3 steals and a block. Erick Nelson led Net Zero with 26 points, 12 rebounds, 2 assists, a steal and a block; Phillip Brown added 16 with 4 boards, two assists and three steals on April 13.

Green Team Victorious Over S.Q. Warriors, 80-63

Just hours before game one of the NBA playoffs, Golden State Warriors staffers Ben Draa and Patrick Lacey matched skills with San Quentin’s Warriors basketball team. Their Christian Ministries “Green Team” defeated the S.Q. Warriors, 80-63.

Draa’s relationship with the G. S. Warriors is largely responsible for their coach Mark Jackson and others coming in to play the S.Q. Warriors the last two years in basketball, according to Green Team coach/player Bill Epling.

It was the Green Team’s first game of the new season and the weather was perfect: sunny with a nice breeze. “It feels great to be back here to play this game we love so much,” said Epling.

The Green Team was 11 deep, including Don Smith. S.Q. Warriors coach Daniel Wright calls Smith the “OG behind the scenes that nothing happens without.”

Green Team newcomer and ringer Evan Fjeld announced his presence by comfortably winning the opening tip and scoring his team’s first two baskets, one with a spin move inside and another with a slam-dunk. He has played in the D-League and in Europe.

The nearly seven-foot Fjeld led all players with a triple-double: 30 points, 13 rebounds,

10 blocks and 5 steals.

“It was tougher than it looked. I’m a little taller than those guys and I was at the right places at the right time,” Fjeld said about his performance.

The Green Team led the whole game, ending the first quarter up 25-12.

“It feels great to have the lead, but you can never get overconfident,” said Epling.

S.Q. Warrior Allan McIntosh, who played shooting guard last year, did a good job at center matched up against Fjeld. McIntosh blocked an alley oop pass that was for Fjeld, breaking up a slam-dunk. McIntosh ended with 19 points, 16 rebounds, 2 assists, 6 steals and 2 more blocks on Fjeld.

“He (Fjeld) is very skilled. It took a minute to gauge just how skilled he is,” said McIntosh.

S.Q. Warrior Anthony Ammons blocked Fjeld’s reverse dunk attempt at the rim, but Fjeld went on to slam three times, earning the nickname “The Plumber,” from Aaron “Jeddi” Taylor, San Quentin’s play-by-play announcer.

The Warriors cut Ministries’ lead to 42-40 in the third quarter on good defense, ending up with 18 steals.

Green Team’s Ben Ilegbodu scored 23 in his return. Along with Lacey’s 12 and Antoine

Maddox’s 15, they put the S.Q. Warriors back in their rearview mirror. Maddox played college ball for La Grange, a Division 3 school in Georgia.

“Y’all cut the lead to two; now y’all back down by 10 because of the boards. They’re getting too many rebounds,” said Wright.

The Warriors never came close again.

“This game is in the refrigerator,” announced Taylor over a PA system in Chick Hearn fashion, when the score reached 79-69 with 1:51 left in the game.

Applause greeted Warrior Donte Smith as he fouled out in the fourth quarter, trying to stop Fjeld.

Taylor used his announcer skills to entertain the crowd and encourage at-risk youth who showed up. Before the captive audience of at least 200 hundred prisoners, a timeout was called so 50 outside guests touring with the SQUIRES program could walk across the court. SQUIRES is a program where at-risk youth visit San Quentin so prisoners can communicate a better way to them, instead of trying to scare them straight. The tour clearly shows



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Donte Smith blocking Evan Fjeld from behind

prison conditions.

“This timeout is brought to you by prone-out productions.” Taylor comically broadcasted to the youngsters. “In prison, you have to prone out on the ground whenever an alarm sounds. Do the right thing, cause you don’t want to become a member of prone-out productions.”

Two other Warriors scored in double digits. Ammons had a double-double with 18 points, 16 rebounds, 1 assist, a steal and 2 blocks. Warrior Ernest “Ness” Dotson scored 17 with 8 rebounds and 4 steals.

Christian Ministries uses basketball to spread God’s message in both word and deeds, not just in San Quentin, but

also around the world, Epling said. He noted he went on a Christian Ministries basketball mission to the Philippines with about 16 guys during the off season (Dec. 27-Jan. 9). The group played 32 games in 12 days, winning them all. One result: 6,000 people signed up for Bible study.

“It’s a dynamite, cool experience to play basketball in San Quentin,” said Green Team player Billy Boidock after the April 19 game. “It’s like a coffee shop, a place to get people together. It teaches everything a guy needs to know in two minutes—who your friends are, who’s selfish.”

—By Rahsaan Thomas

San Quentin News

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VOL. 2014 NO.6

June 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,873



Photo by Sam Robinson

Al Serrato, Stephen Wagstaffe and Tom Nolan

San Mateo D.A. Discusses Criminal Justice Policy

San Quentin News' fifth Forum featured San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen M. Wagstaffe. Wagstaffe and his assistant, Al Serrato, discussed criminal justice policy with about a dozen convicted crimi-

nals.

Introducing themselves, each inmate described his crime, county of conviction and sentence. Crimes ranged from bur-

See San Mateo on Page 4

Correctional Officer Saves Inmate's Life

By Lee Jasper
Journalism Guild Writer

During the late afternoon of April 10, Correctional Officer Arana brought inmate David R. Tarvin back to life.

"My heart quit, and I was dead," Tarvin said. "I want to express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation for Officer Arana's knowledge and extraordinary professionalism."

Arana said when he found Tarvin, he was unresponsive and without a pulse.

Sgt. Dougery was working the

Lower Yard when the incident occurred.

"I called Control and informed them that Tarvin was not breathing," Dougery said. "Once the medical staff of the Treatment Triage Area arrived, I retrieved (an) Amu-Bag, which is used to supply oxygen to the person. I then began giving rescue breaths while Arana did chest compressions."

"Medical staff knew exactly what was happening and exactly where to go but were not sure at

See C/O on Page 5

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

May 25 was not a typical Sunday on San Quentin's Lower Yard. Amid the morning tennis matches and basketball games that inmates play against the Bay Area community, dozens of Texans came to walk laps and raise funds in support of children who have endured trying times.

The originators of the fundraiser are inmates Stephen Pascascio, Sam Johnson, Dwight Krizman and Gino Sevacos. It was the fourth one held at San Quentin.

"I met Vanessa Stone six years ago," Pascascio said. "When I asked her what she does, she said that she raises money for traumatized kids around the world. When I brought the fundraising idea to the administration, they were fully on board. The rest is history." He added, "It is an honor and blessing to help such a worthy cause."

Inmates, prison staffers, Bay Area people and representatives



Photo by Michael Nelson

San Quentin band performs for the audience

from Amala Foundation walked the first lap in silence as the soft sounds of *Love is Space*, a devotional song by Deva Premal, filled the air.

Upon completing the lap, walkers engaged in intimate

conversations.

"After walking a couple of laps with an inmate and talking, sometimes you get this knowledge and experience that's un-

See Commemor. on Page 10

New Senate Bills Give Hope To Juvenile Lifers

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

An inmate serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for his part in a murder that was committed when he was 16 can now apply for parole under a new law.

Edel Gonzalez, 38, requested a hearing under Senate Bill 9. He was subsequently resentenced to 25 years to life.

"I think Edel Gonzalez is exactly the kind of person that this law contemplated," Elizabeth Calvin of Human Rights Watch.

Gonzalez and adult gang members attempted to carjack Janet Bicknell and fatally shot

her in August 1991, news reports state. After his conviction, he received a sentence of life without parole.

At the time, Gonzalez was the youngest person ever to receive such a sentence in Orange County.

Gonzalez did not shoot Bicknell or carry the weapon, but he received the same punishment as his adult cohorts, reports say.

"Young people often make mistakes, and sometimes those mistakes have terrible consequences," said former state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, author of SB 9. "We

See Senate Bills on Page 15

Court Experts: CCWF's Medical System Is Substandard

According to court-appointed medical experts, California Central Women's Facility (CCWF) is not delivering adequate medical care to female inmates. CCWF is one of three women's facilities in the state.

The experts toured CCWF last July to conduct observations and interviews with medical staff and inmates. They inspected facilities, clinics, medical bed space, medical records and various housing units.

The facility's records show care was sporadic and "providers did not address all the

patients' medical conditions."

The report found some women were prematurely discharged from medical beds, or sent back to housing units without their health problems addressed.

The report "found significant problems related to timeliness and quality of care in several systems." Most of the problems were attributable to overcrowding, insufficient health care staffing and inadequate medical bed space.

Many older women with a higher need of medical care were transferred to CCWF de-

spite difficulties in the health care delivery system.

"With respect to medical intake, the process is fragmented and does not result in the timely identification and treatment of serious medical conditions," the report said, adding there is no standardization to laboratory tests ordered for newly arriving inmates; instead, nurses independently order laboratory tests without a physician's order.

"Providers do not write medication orders but sign the

See CCFW's on Page 7



File photo

California Central Women's Facility

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

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Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY Graduate School of Journalism

BEHIND THE SCENES
The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

EDITORIAL

Good Eye Care in Prison

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

With the federal courts declaring that California's prisons could not provide adequate health care because they were overcrowded, inmates often feel neglected by a perceived uncaring system. But, that assumption is not always true.

There are numerous health care providers who are concerned about inmates' medical needs, and they often take extraordinary efforts to meet patients' needs. They serve inmates in a variety of ways — from the nurse, who first sees an inmate, to outside specialists; numerous people provide a wide range of services. Most of these doctors, nurses and technicians try their best to do a good job.

However, the manner in which a doctor, nurse, technician or medical staff member treats inmates influences the perception of that service. Is the health care provider kind and polite or are they harsh and arrogant?

Influencing how an inmate perceives his or her medical care is that inmates are aware everything in prison is filtered through a strict system crafted around custody. So, sitting in a holding area overseen by custody staff can make an inmate feel that they are no more than a number in an uncaring system.

An exception to inmates' perception of an uncaring medical department is nurse Tara Kesecker, BA LVN CCHP.

Kesecker has an office in San Quentin's Central Health Care Facility. She's worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for about six years, all at San Quentin. Kesecker has become recognizable at this prison as someone who takes time to meet the medical needs of each inmate in her care.

Kesecker said working at San Quentin "has been a real eye-opener."

When she began working here, she went to the North Segregation Unit. She said that an inmate was complaining about not getting his medication and said he was in a lot of pain. She said that since no one would bring the inmate his medication, she went back to the medical building, picked up the medication and took it to the inmate. She said that the inmate was very grateful and six years later, he is still giving thanks.

Kesecker said that incident was her first indication that some



Photo by Michelle Rochelle

Tara Kesecker in front of the CCHP hallway

inmates might not be getting adequate care. "Getting your medication is very important, no matter who you are," adding, "follow up and continuing care is very important."

Today, Kesecker works as an optometrist technician assisting inmates with glasses and other vision problems. She has a huge responsibility providing eye care to inmates, a sensitive area of utmost importance to her patients. "I have nothing but praise for all of my co-workers," she said. "I love working with them."

Kesecker said she "loves her work," even though she said she knew that there would be many complexities. "I look forward to the challenges of my job," she said.

Inmates who walk into her office are greeted with a warm tone and clear words. New patients instantly know that Kesecker is a caring health care provider who takes her job seriously. Her concern about vision and eye care gives patients a real sense of comfort.

"Tara has a way of making one comfortable and relieving tension," one inmate said.

Kesecker said inmate health care is a constant concern to her, and she wants to be involved in bringing quality health care to inmates.

She said after listening to question from inmates about the link between sleep and overall good health, conducting a sleep test at San Quentin might be useful. She said after Sacramento's approval to move forward with the test, she's excited.

Nevertheless, Kesecker said in order for inmates to receive quality care, it is important to communicate and cooperate. Kesecker said. "Inmates must be quality patients."

She said once an inmate puts in a slip to see the eye doctor, there's no need to repeat the process. Within 24 hours, the medical slip is processed and the patient will be seen within 90 days.

While it is easy for inmates to feel neglected and abused regarding health care, inmates do not always think about the difficulty health care providers face with each new patient. If inmates step back and put themselves in place of the person trying to provide help, they might get a better perspective that could benefit the goal of good health care.

SAN QUENTIN 2014 DAY OF PEACE

Lengthy Prison Terms Costing Taxpayers Billions of Dollars

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Over the last two decades, the average length of stay for inmates in U.S. prisons has increased, costing taxpayers billions of dollars with little to show for the extra expense needed to keep offenders behind bars, a research center reports.

A study by the *Pew Center on the States* found there was a spike of more than 700 percent in the U.S. prison population from 1972 to 2011.

“Longer prison terms have been a key driver of prison populations and cost,” the study said.

“Nationally, the fastest period of growth in time served came between 1995 and 2000. In that period, length of stay rose 28 percent, compared with less than 5 percent in the five-year periods before and after,” *Pew* reported.

The *Pew Center’s* research found that state spending amounts to more than \$51 billion annually on corrections, with prisons accounting for the majority of this rising price tag.

Across the nation, these developments, combined with tight

state budgets have prompted a significant shift toward alternatives to prison for lower-level offenders, the report found. “Criminologist and policy makers increasingly agree that we have reached a ‘tipping point’ with incarceration, where additional imprisonment will have little if any effect on crime.”

“Longer prison terms have been a key driver of prison populations and cost”

The report said additional time in prison may result in a “declining deterrent effect,” and make the offender more likely to commit new crimes after release. This is “the foundation of the argument that prisons are ‘schools of crime.’”

Both the number of offenders sent to prison and the length of incarceration are “principal forces” on the rise and fall of prison

populations, *Pew* reported.

According to the study, inmates who paroled in 2009 had an average prison time of nearly three years, nine months longer than inmates paroled in 1990, this amounts to a 36 percent increase in time served over the course of a decade.

“The cost of that extra nine months totals an average of \$23,300 per offender,” *Pew* reported.

According to *Pew*, the increase in time was “remarkably similar across crime types.”

Drug crimes increased to 2.2 years, up from 1.6 years in 1990 – a 36 percent increase.

Property crimes increased to 2.3 years, up from 1.8 years in 1990 – a 24 percent increase.

Violent crimes increased 5.0 years, up from 3.7 years in 1990, which is a 37 percent increase.

“This cohort cost \$4.7 billion more than had they served the 1990 average,” *Pew* said.

In California, the average length of stay for all crimes was 1.9 years for those paroled in 1990. By 2009, that number jumped to 2.9 years, an increase of 51 percent – 15 percent above

the national average of 36 percent, it was reported.

For violent offenders in California the overall length of stay jumped to 63 percent, the *Pew* study reported.

“I think if you had a list of all the potential factors that could drive up length of stay in prison, California would have a check by every one of them,” said Joan Petersilia, co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center.

The *Pew* study said there is little or no evidence suggesting longer periods of incarceration prevents additional crime for a significant number of offenders.

“A significant proportion of non-violent offenders who were released in 2004 could have served shorter prison terms without impacting public safety,” *Pew* reported.

The study said California has been struggling for a long time to provide adequate rehabilitation and work programs for its prison population as a way for eligible participants to earn a reduction in their time served.

“One study found that for offenders released (in California)

in 2006, half had not attended a single rehabilitation program or work assignment while behind bars,” *Pew* reported. California has since recommitted to rehabilitation and is investing in increasing the programs offered to inmates, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation press office.

The *Pew* study said those who make policy in the three branches of government could modify incarceration time by adjusting both “the front-end (sentencing), and back-end (release) policy decisions.”

“Decisions about how to charge a defendant after arrest and booking can have a profound impact on future length of stay in prison. In most instances, prosecutors have significant discretion in determining which charges to file,” the *Pew* study said.

The study said some states have implemented reforms including raising the dollar amount on property crimes that trigger certain felonies, revising drug offense classifications, scaling back mandatory minimums, increasing the ability to earn sentence reductions and revising eligibility standards for parole.

The study concluded that long-term sentences are “not the best way to spend public dollars and protect public safety.”

Second-Striker Population Jumps, Causing Officials to Worry About Maintaining Cap

By Antonio Alvarado
Journalism Guild Writer

State officials are concerned about a flood of new inmates into California’s overcrowded prison and county jails systems, reports Rina Palta, crime and safety reporter for KPCC.

The Three Strikes Law, enacted in 1994, increased California’s prison population over time, according to Palta.

The law changed sentencing in two ways:

Anyone having two previous convictions for a serious or violent felony crime would be sentenced to 25 years to life upon their third felony conviction. Anyone having a felony conviction while previously convicted of a serious or violent crime – known as “second strikers” – would have their sentence automatically dou-

bled.

State officials worry that the increase of “second strike” admissions would make it difficult for California to comply with a federal court order to reduce its prison population over the next two years, Palta reported.

According to prison officials’ population projections, “there were 5,492 second strike admissions in fiscal year 2012-

2013, which is 32.6 percent higher than the previous fiscal year” – the highest number of second strikers sent to prison since 1998-1999.

California has approximately 35,000 second strikers; 24,000 are in prison on a non-violent second-strike conviction, prison numbers show. This is proving to be a major obstacle in reducing the prison population down to 137.5 percent of its

capacity, according to Palta’s report.

“We’re certainly concerned that if this trend in increased admissions continues, it is going to make it harder for the state to comply. The state will have to figure out some kind of way to accommodate them,” said Aaron Edwards, senior analyst at the non-partisan Legislative Analyst’s Office.

Edwards said no one can quite explain the recent increase, but that it is likely the result of many factors, one guess being the consequence of the state’s shifting “low-level” offenders and parolees from serving time in state prisons to local county jail facilities.

“Prior to realignment, individuals who were on parole could be sent back to prison for a parole violation,” Edwards said. Now parole violations either get jail time or are prosecuted as new crimes – sometimes resulting in second-strike convictions.

According to Palta, another possibility is county prosecutors, dealing with overcrowded jails, could be deciding to charge more offenders with strikes to make sure they go to prison instead of jail or probation.

Palta reports that in granting the state a two-year extension for lowering its prison population, state officials have agreed to increase its good-time credits for second strikers currently in prison. The state has also agreed to create a parole process for second strikers convicted of non-violent offenses who have served at least half of their sentence.

Report: Prison Population and Overall Crime Rate Both Going Down

After four decades of swelling prison populations and exorbitant costs to maintain such growth, state prison populations finally are decreasing and the overall crime rate is dropping, according to the non-profit Urban Institute. However, the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is not part of the downward trend.

“BOP is falling behind the state prison systems and is on track to squander one-third of the Justice Department’s budget by 2020,” said National Public Radio in a special report. “The federal prison population has grown eightfold since 1980.

It costs more than \$6 billion a year to house more than 200,000 inmates in increasingly overcrowded facilities.” The NPR report cited research by the Urban Institute and the Pew Center.

Prisons cost a fortune and “that is at great expense to other fiscal priorities,” said Nancy LaVigne, director of the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center. “That affects the DEA, the FBI, grants to states and localities for policing, for crime prevention, and for reducing gang violence.”

Beginning in the late 1980s, tough-on-crime politics convinced lawmakers to pass laws creating mandatory minimums, truth in sentencing, and Three-Strikes laws, NPR reported. No politician wants to seem soft on crime. In prison systems across the country, as prison populations rose, crime rates went down.

“There’s been this assumption that if you wanted to reduce crime, you had to lock up more and more people,” says Adam Gelb, director of the public safety performance

project for the Pew Charitable Trusts. “But what we’re seeing in state after state, is states actually ratcheting back their prison populations and having significant drops in crime.”

“It appears that we have passed the point of diminishing returns, to where more and more prisons are not effective at reducing crime”

“It appears that we have passed the point of diminishing returns, to where more and

more prisons are not effective at reducing crime,” said Gelb. “People are sick and tired of this revolving door. There’s got to be a better way.”

According to the Pew Center research, only three percent of the BOP’s population of federal inmates have been convicted of murder, assault or kidnapping. Half of all federal prisoners were convicted on drug-related charges.

NPR points out that for the first time, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are reviewing legislation that will “reduce prison sentences and drug penalties for nonviolent crimes.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee recently passed a bill to lower mandatory minimums for some drug crimes and to give judges more discretion during sentencing. The bill is now before the full Senate.

—By Kevin D. Sawyer

CALPIA's Scott Walker Receives 2014 Staff Award

By CDCR

With more than 28 years of experience at the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), Deputy Director Scott Walker is the recipient of the "Staff Award for 2014" from the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA).

CALPIA General Manager Charles L. Pattillo nominated Walker for the award. Forty-nine other states also nominated correctional industry staff for this prestigious honor. Walker was first selected as the regional winner.

NCIA announced Walker was the national winner in January, and he was recognized at the National NCIA Conference in April.

The NCIA Staff Award was established in 1980 to recognize the quality of industry staff personnel and recognize superior performance.

"I am thrilled NCIA recognized Scott Walker for his leadership and innovations," said Pattillo. "It's because of his commitment and dedication to CALPIA that offenders acquire job skills, which is vital when it comes to reducing recidivism, reducing state

costs and, more importantly, increasing public safety."

Walker has been instrumental in stewarding CALPIA's 57 manufacturing, service and consumable enterprises in 24 prisons. He said operations are expected to expand to 91 enterprises in 34 prisons. "The big one is in health care maintenance. It is projected to create another 900 offender assignments," Walker said.

CALPIA is a self-financed and self-sufficient state entity that receives all of its revenue from the sale of products it manufactures.



Photo by Sara Lafleur-Vetter

Scott Walker

The recidivism rate among CALPIA inmates is more than 25 percent lower than the general prison popula-

tion, a success attributed to the job skills that they receive by working in CALPIA business enterprises.

CDCR Launches New Rehabilitative Services For Long-Term Offenders

By CDC Press

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is launching a pilot program offering targeted rehabilitative services to inmates serving long-term sentences.

The Long-Term Offender Pilot Program (LTOPP) provides evidence-based programming during incarceration and services upon release to allow inmates an easier transition back into society. "Due to the length of incarceration, long-term offenders are often not prepared for the

significant changes in technology and day-to-day living that have occurred since they were first incarcerated," said Millie Tidwell, CDCR Division of Rehabilitative Programs Director. "Giving these offenders the tools they need to be successful in their own rehabilitation both inside and outside prison is imperative."

The program is intended to serve inmates who have been identified as having moderate to high risk of criminal behavior and are serving indeterminate sentences with the possibility

of parole. The LTOPP is a voluntary program that will include evidence-based treatment for:

- Substance abuse
- Criminal thinking
- Victim impact
- Anger-management issues
- Improvement of family relationships

The LTOPP will initially be implemented at the following institutions: California State Prison, Solano in Vacaville; Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla; and California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. Inmates who are serving

indeterminate sentences at non-pilot institutions may be allowed to temporarily transfer to a pilot location in order to participate in the LTOPP.

Additionally, CDCR is creating Long-Term Offender Reentry Facilities that will help long-term offenders during their transition back into society, including housing, employment and community-based services. Locations for these reentry facilities are still being determined.

The pilot program will be in effect for 24 months, during which time the CDCR Division

of Rehabilitative Programs will monitor implementation and effectiveness of the program. If proven to be a successful rehabilitative tool, the program will then go through the Administrative Procedures Act process to become a formal policy.

The LTOPP is being implemented in accordance with the 2012 CDCR Blueprint in which the department was tasked with increasing the percentage of inmates served in rehabilitative programs prior to release to 70 percent of the target population.

San Mateo D.A. Wagstaffe Shares His Views at News Forum

Continued from Page 1

glary to first-degree murder.

"In December of 1997 I killed someone, and when I first came to prison, racism was widespread," said Erin O'Connor, 42. "I bought into that idea and even went further into a racist ideology. I bought into these morbid ideas."

O'Connor added, "It wasn't until 2004 when I was in the hole for starting a race riot that got me thinking that I wasn't the person my mother expected me to be. I decided to turn my life around. Then I came to San Quentin and got into programs."

"I started at level four," said Thompson Isaiah, 53. "When I became a member of the level four community, I learned racism. It was hard for me to take the racism in prison based on my background in college and the military. On a level four, hyper-vigilance is a survival technique," he said. "I've learned to value life."

"It turned out to be an eye-opening experience," said Wagstaffe, who has 37 years of experience as a district attorney. He became San Mateo's lead DA in 2011.

Serrato said at the April 9 event he was interested in the types of rehabilitative opportunities offered at San Quentin.

Serrato asked the men how long it took them to gain the insight they were reflecting during the forum. "Was it a lack of education, or did you need the time?" he asked.

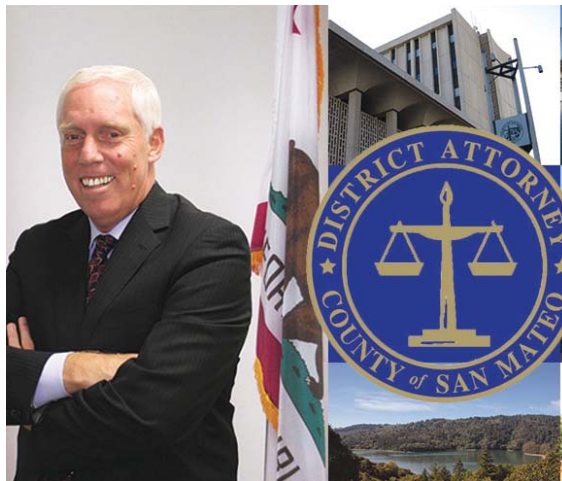
"My greatest opponent was my rage," said Beltranchuc Tare, 41. "It took me six months to see that I can turn my life around. I saw my friend change, and then I had a role model. Restorative Justice Roundtable allowed me to hear other people open up, and I learned about the pain that I caused. I knew that the victims deserved better. It helped me see my crime as what it is. I saw the ripple effect of my crimes."

Miles Vaughn, 40, said, "It would [not] have worked when I was younger. I can see now how easy it is. When I was younger, I didn't know how to express myself. It is hard to understand empathy when you're in a negative environment. It wasn't until I got to San Quentin that I had a chance to change."

"When I came to prison in 1973, Tracy was known as the gladiator school," said Robin Guillen, 60. "Being in Rome, I did as the Romans did. I adapted to that environment."

However, Guillen said, "The pivotal point for me was right in the beginning of my 41 years of incarceration. A man I knew was stabbed in his heart right in front of me. I had to watch him die. I registered for me, the value of human life," he added. "That was when Jerry Brown was governor the first time. There have to be opportunities for change."

"Sitting with these men always is a flooring experience," said Sonya Shah, lead facilitator for San Quentin's Victim/Offender Education Group (VOEG). VOEG is designed to



File photo

San Mateo D.A. Stephen Wagstaffe

bring crime victims and offenders together in dialogue for the purpose of aiding victim healing.

"What makes a person thrive is being safe," Shah said, referring to San Quentin's prosocial programs. She added, "From sports to religion to college, these programs are what helps create the changes and opens the mind of the offender, which makes the community safer."

Wagstaffe asked the men about the availability of programs throughout the prison system.

Miguel Quezada, 33, said he committed murder at 17. "I was sent to county jail. They didn't know what to do with me, so I

ended up in solitary confinement. When I turned 18, I was sent to a level four, maximum-security prison."

"There were no programs there, just basic education," said Quezada. "There were a lot of lockdowns. I did this for five and a half years. The only self-help program available was Alternatives to Violence." He added, "Even though what led to my incarceration was a matter of choice, I needed the chance to change."

Thou Nou, 38, said he committed a murder as a juvenile and ended up on a level four prison at 17.

"I came into prison not knowing my identity or who I was,"

Nou said. "When I was young, I didn't have someone to help me learn identity. I was disconnected, and after I got to level four, I was further disconnected."

While in administrative segregation, Nou said his sister sent him a letter with his niece's footprint on it. He said the sight of the footprint made him feel connected to his family. "That was the first time I felt what the victims went through," he said.

Lee Jaspas, 57, said that after a long period of reflection and denial, he began to understand his role in the neglect to his family and community.

"I had a choice to either look at the ugliness that was going on around me or look at myself," Jaspas said. "The only thing I had was to look at myself. I realized that life is not about me. It is about the people I owed, my community and family."

Jaspas said what was helpful to his rehabilitation was when people from the community came inside the prison to interact in the programs he took.

"I made a commitment to take all my time and efforts in the service of my community," Jaspas said.

"I don't know the other 120,000 men in California prisons, but having the chance to listen to you is very meaningful," Wagstaffe told the inmates. "I'd love to hear more from you. I'd like to come to any of the groups. I would love to hear about the programs. The time today was of extreme value."

—By Juan Haines

‘Reid Technique’ Interrogations Said to Lead to False Confessions

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Interrogation techniques widely used by law enforcement that include lying about having evidence, badgering and manipulating suspects can cause false confessions, and it is legal. That is the conclusion of a recent article in *The New Yorker*.

According to *The New Yorker*, John Reid, a former Chicago cop who became a consultant and polygraph expert, developed a three-stage system in 1955, called the Reid Technique that uses such tactics.

SUPREME COURT DECISION

A 1969 US Supreme Court decision affirmed the police have a right to lie to suspects.

The Reid system is extremely effective in producing confessions but not very good at separating true ones from false ones, found Melissa Russano and her colleagues at Florida International University, who conducted experiments using

the Reid interrogation method.

The article’s author, Douglas Starr, writes that 25 percent of the 311 people exonerated by post-conviction DNA have confessed to crimes they did not do. This has raised alarms among a growing number of scientists and legal scholars about Reid-style interrogations, according to Starr’s article, (*Dec. 12, 2013, “The Interview.”*)

“My God, [the Reid Manual] reads like a bad psychology textbook. It was filled with assertions with no empirical proof,” psychologist Saul Kassin told Starr. Kassin is widely regarded as a leading expert on false confessions.

The Reid Technique starts with a “Behavior Analysis Interview,” when the interrogator assesses whether a suspect is lying. To determine this, the questioner asks a series of non-threatening questions to get a sense of baseline behavior. Then he uses more provocative accusations and “baiting,” in which the interrogator claims he has incriminating evidence.

If the interrogator decides

the suspect is lying, he leaves the room for five minutes and returns with an official-looking folder. The folder is used to bluff the suspect into believing official information shows the suspect is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

In the full interrogation phrase, the suspect is prodded to confess. The interrogator does all the talking, batting away all the suspect’s denials.

Then the “minimization” phase begins, in which the suspects are steered toward confessing by offering them a face-saving alternative.

CONFESSION

When the suspect finally admits to the crime, the interrogator praises him for owning up and presses for corroborating details. Then the interrogator works with the suspect to convert the admissions into a full written confession. If the suspect has trouble remembering the details, the interrogator offers multiple-choice options for the answers.

As a finishing touch, trivial

mistakes are introduced into the document for the suspect to correct and then initial. That shows the court that the suspect understood the accuracy of what he was signing.

Kassin views Reid’s system as inherently coercive. He explained to Starr that an interrogator’s refusal to listen to a suspect’s denials creates feelings of hopelessness. The fake file and the lies about the incriminating evidence multiply this effect. Then short-term thinking takes over and confessing starts to look like a way out. Many people take it just to stop the incessant badgering by the interrogator.

Starr’s article cited others who agreed with Kassin’s assessment. An innocent suspect will fabricate a story to satisfy his questioners, said Richard Leo, a law professor at the University of San Francisco, and Richard Ofshe, a social psychologist. Leo has undergone the Reid training and observed nearly 200 interrogations in Oakland, Hayward and Vallejo police departments.

Starr writes that Russano has found that direct accusations elicit confessions from innocent and guilty subjects alike. In an experiment involving accusing innocent students of cheating conducted by Russano and cited by Starr, the face-saving minimization technique proved especially effective.

Additionally, in experiments students performed better than police officers at telling whether someone was lying. However, police consistently expressed greater confidence in their ability to tell who was lying. “That’s a bad combination,” Kassin told Starr.

Law-enforcement experience does not necessarily improve the ability to detect lies, according to Aldert Vrij, a professor of psychology at the University of Portsmouth in England cited by

Starr.

Reid-style training creates a tendency to see lies where they may not exist, with an unhealthy amount of confidence in that judgment, says retired F.B.I. agent Gregg McCrary, according to *The New Yorker*. “They just assume they’re interviewing the guilty guy,” McCrary said.

Starr also interviewed Joseph Buckley, president of John E. Reid & Associates, who confirmed that nothing in the technique was developed in collaboration with psychologists. “It’s entirely based on our experience,” he said.

TECHNIQUE

Buckley insists the Reid Technique’s sole objective is to get to the truth. He has testified for the Innocence Project to get wrongfully convicted people out of prison and help them sue for reparations when the interrogator violates training procedures. In other words, when a false confession is produced, it’s the fault of the interrogator, not Reid Technique itself, Buckley insisted to Starr. He also argues that experiments conducted by his critics are flawed because they lack real-world conditions.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, explained to Starr that it is easier to win false-conviction cases by having Buckley testify that the police violated their training than by trying to show with a team of psychologists that the training itself is slipshod.

Although John Reid died in 1982, his company continues to train police, security guards, military, FBI, CIA and Secret Service agents. It trains more interrogators than any other company worldwide and brags that the people it trains get suspects to confess 80 percent of the time, which usually leads to a guilty verdict no matter the other facts in the case.

FBI Studies Project Hike In Violence, Property Crimes

By **Charles David Henry**
Staff Writer

Violent and property crimes in America climbed for the second year in a row, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics reports.

The increases were driven by simple assaults and crime not reported to police, the bureau reported.

“These estimates are based on data from the annual National Crime Victimization Survey, which has collected information from victims of crime age 12 or older since 1973,” according to the bureau.

Statistics produced from the October 2013 report show “the violent crime rate (which includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault) rose from 22.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons in 2011 to 26.1 in 2012.” These are the latest nationwide figures available.

In order to compile the proper statistics, the report includes calculations on violence perpetrated on victims not reported to the police. The report shows these numbers increased from 10.8 per 1,000 persons in 2011, to 14.0 in 2012, and simple assault rates rose from 15.4 to 18.2 per 1,000.

According to the report, “the rate of violent crimes reported to police did not change significantly from 2011 to 2012.”

Other statistics include the rate of property crimes (burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft) increased from 138.7 per 1,000 households in 2011 to 155.8 in 2012, primarily due to an increase in theft. The report shows “the rate of theft victimization increased from 104.2

per 1,000 households in 2011 to 120.9 in 2012.”

“In 2012, 44 percent of violent victimizations and 54 percent of violent victimizations were reported to police,” the report finds.

According to the report, “These percentages were not statistically different from 2011. The percentage of property victimizations reported to police declined from 37 percent in 2011 to 34 percent in 2012.”

The Bureau of Justice Statistics explains. “There was no significant change in the percentage of crime victims receiving assistance from 2011 to 2012.”

That same year, “about 8 percent of violent crime victims received assistance from public or private victim services agencies that provide support for physical or emotional recovery, guidance through the criminal justice system or assistance with obtaining restitution,” the report stated.

“Rape or sexual assault victims (22 percent) were more likely to receive assistance than victims of robbery (6 percent), aggravated assault (8 percent) or simple assault (8 percent),” it was also reported.

The following statistics were included in the report:

The rates of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and violence involving an injury or firearm violence did not change significantly from 2011 to 2012.

Violent crime rates increased slightly in 2012 for blacks but remained stable for whites and Hispanics.

In 2012, residents in urban areas continued to experience the highest rates of violent crime. Residents in the West had higher

rates of violent victimization than resident in other regions of the country.

The composition of violent crime remained stable in 2012. From 1993 to 2012, simple assaults made up approximately 70 percent of all violent victimizations.

During 2012, about 92,390 households and 162,940 persons age 12 or older were interviewed for the report. According to the report, “since the National Crime Victim Survey interviews victims of crime, homicide is not included in these nonfatal

Correctional Officer’s Courageous Act of Saving a Life



Sgt. Dougery

Continued from Page 1

first of the seriousness of the situation because when I called it in, I spoke as clearly and calmly as I could,” said Correctional Of-

ficer Whitted, who was Arana’s partner. “Medical staff used the AED once on Tarvin and they were preparing to shock him again when the machine registered a pulse.”

Tarvin was subsequently transported to Marin General Hospital, where two stents were implanted in his blocked arteries.

Whitted is an 18-year veteran of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and has been at San Quentin his entire career. “It was unfortunate that this had to happen, and I just did what I had to do,” Whitted said. “We are not here to punish anyone. That has already been done by a court. I try to stay above judgment and do my job in a professional manner.”

Arana began his CDCR career at San Quentin six years ago. He noted that correctional officers



David Tarvin

are trained to perform their duties in a professional manner.

“I am part of a team,” he said. “The medical staff and those at the hospital were also an important part of saving his life.”

“When something like this happens, you just react based on your training. I do not think about who it is,” Whitted said. “I would do the same thing for anyone: custody, free-staff or inmate. I hope Mr. Tarvin is well.”

S. Q. Veterans Honor American Soldiers on Memorial Day

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

While many Americans placed flowers and flags on soldiers' graves on May 26, military veterans inside San Quentin also honored American soldiers who had lost their lives serving their country. "I believe the observance of Memorial Day is important, even in prison," said Honor Guard Team Leader Craig Johnson. "It's our duty to remember all of those who have died while in the service of the United States. All of these men and women are my brothers and sisters."

As noon approached, spectators watched more than two dozen inmate/veterans assemble and file into a military formation on San Quentin's Lower Yard. The ribbons and awards these inmate/veterans earned stood out against their prison blues.

At high noon, the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin Honor Guard paraded the American and POW/MIA

flags across the Lower Yard. They halted in front of a crowd of spectators. Next, bugler and veteran Larry "Popeye" Faison took his position. Johnson's call to "Present Arms" cut through the sounds of sports and table games across the yard. The inmate/veterans saluted as the POW/MIA flag dropped to a 45-degree angle while the American flag stood tall.

When Popeye finished "Taps," Johnson called "Order Arms," and marched the Honor Guard back across the field. The formation was dismissed and the ceremony concluded.

As of 2012, 1,295,547 American soldiers have died during wartimes, according to *PBS News* and the *World Almanac*.

Inmate/veterans who took part in the ceremony:

Craig R. Johnson, 57; two years duty; U.S. Navy
Lawson Beavers, 78; five years duty; U.S. Army
Michael Elmore, 59; two years duty; U.S. Marine Corps
Chris Schuhmacher, 41; two



Photo by Sam Hearn

Members of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Question

years duty; U.S. Air Force David Tarvin, 60; three years duty; U.S. Navy Wesley Eisiminger, 67; three years duty; U.S. Army Gary Cooper, 65; four years duty; U.S. Marine Corps Andre Richardson, 47; two years duty; U.S. Air Force Harry Terry, 76; 20 years duty; U.S. Navy Larry Faison, 63; two years duty; U.S. Army Ed Bowman, 74; 12 years duty; U.S. Marine Corps Harry Barton, 70; four years duty; U.S. Navy	Kenneth Goodlow, 65; two years duty; U.S. Army Emery Milligan, 64; 20 years duty; U.S. Marine Corps James Foster, 69; four years duty; U.S. Navy Sam Gaskins, 68; 12 years duty; U.S. Army Mauro Gumpal, 57; six years duty; U.S. Marine Corps Don Dawson, 75; six years duty; U.S. Navy Marvin Harris, 60; two years, six months duty; U.S. Army Christopher Anderson, 51 (years of duty unknown); U.S.	Marine Corps Harry Olson, 75; six years duty; U.S. Navy Martin, J.D., 65; 12 years duty; U.S. Army Bernard Werner, 49; three years duty; U.S. Marine Corps Pedro Espinal, 60; four years duty; U.S. Navy Henry L. Poe, 60; six years duty; U.S. Army Malcolm Jones, 55 (years duty unknown); U.S. Navy Garvin E. Robinson, 59 (years duty unknown); U.S. Army Nicola Bucci, 41; (years duty unknown) U.S. Navy
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Remembering the Life of Mark Titch

By Raphael Calix
Contributing Writer

Mark Titch passed away on April 22 after being hospitalized for 11 days. Titch was scheduled to appear before the parole board May 14 for the ninth time.

The cause of his death is not yet known. "It takes two months before the official cause of death is reported," said Chief Medical Officer Elaina Tootell.

Titch entered through prison doors in 1976 as a 17-year-old convicted of murder and kidnap. He was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole.

Chuck LeGros, his cellmate for nine years, came to prison at age 45 and did not know anything about prison life. "Mark schooled me, and took good

care of me, just like a son," he said, adding, "Mark's favorite time when he was not working was to cook some food and throw a food fest on the yard with his friends."

A long-time co-worker, said, "Mark was very personable, and he would take the shirt off his back to help you. He was a hard worker, leading by example in the print shop and as a welder."

Titch educated himself, achieving a high school diploma and a college education from Chapman University at the California Men's Colony (CMC).

While at CMC, he became a confirmed Catholic. LeGros said of him, "He believed in God, and his Lord and savior



File photo

Chuck LeGros, Bishop and Mark Titch in the Chapel



Artwork by Mark Titch

was Jesus Christ. I believe that Mark went straight to heaven from San Quentin."

According to LeGros, Titch's childhood was fraught with many problems. He said that Titch's mother abandoned the family to start a new life without him and his siblings and that their father was an alcoholic who beat him and his siblings. Titch left home at 13 and never returned, according to LeGros.

Growing up in Orange County placed him near Disneyland. According to LeGros, Titch spent a lot of time at Disneyland as a runaway.

When he started getting into trouble with the law, he spent many years in juvenile detention centers and several years in the California Youth Authority. His father passed away during this term, LeGros said. His siblings separated from the family as well, and he lost contact with most of them.

Titch qualified for consideration for parole under the recent juvenile bill passed last year. His correctional counselor was in the process of gathering the necessary records for consideration, according to LeGros.

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Execution Case Investigated Nearly 70 Years Later

‘Stinney is the youngest person known to be executed in America in the last two centuries’

**By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer**

The execution of 14-year-old George Junius Stinney Jr. in June 1944 has sparked a discussion regarding deep racial injustice in South Carolina.

Stinney is the youngest person known to be executed in America in the 20th century.

Nearly 70 years after Stinney was put to death for allegedly killing two white girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 8, advocates have taken the unprecedented step of asking the South Carolina state court to grant a new trial to clear his name, according to a re-

port from *NBC News Investigations*.

George Frierson, a local historian from South Carolina, and Ray Brown, a filmmaker who is writing a script based on Stinney’s story, have joined efforts to persuade the state to review the criminal proceeding from the original case.

WRONGFUL CONVICTION

“We want them to consider the possibility that he was wrongly convicted and executed for something he did not do,” said Brown.

A representative for the Attorney General Office, which would be tasked with arguing

the state’s case in the event of a retrial, has not received notice of the filing and has no comments on the pending litigation.

“We want them to consider the possibility that he was wrongly convicted and executed for something he did not do”

“South Carolina law allows a defendant to ask for a retrial if new evidence is uncovered, but it requires the motion be filed within a year of the discovery,” according to the *NBC* report.

The day Binnicker and Thames were killed in Alcolu, S.C., Stinney and his younger sister, Amie, sat on the railroad tracks after school and watched the family cow graze.

According to the report, “The girls wheeled their bicycle up to them and asked where they could find maypop flowers.”

“It was strange to see them in our area, because white people stayed on their side of Alcolu and we knew our place,” Amie said years later in an affidavit.

Members of the black community from the town joined a search party and found the girls’ bodies dumped in a ditch the next day. Police arrested George and his brother. The brother was later released but George was not, according to the *NBC* report.

CONFESSION

Although George had confessed to the murders of Binnicker and Thames, Amie told

investigators in 2009, she was with her brother [George] that day, and he could not have committed the murders.

Stinney’s attorney took him to trial 30 days after the murder.

According to the *NBC* report, “The boy’s court appointed attorney did not present a defense.” In addition, he did not file a notice of appeal, which would have at least delayed the boy’s execution.

CONVICTION

An all-white jury convicted (Stinney) on the basis of what police described as a confession. The prosecution presented two conflicting statements made by Stinney: one that he had killed the girls in self-defense and the other that he had chased the girls into the woods and attacked them. No records remain of either confession, according to the *NBC* report.

Soon after the jury found Stinney guilty of murder, the judge ordered a death penalty, the report said.

Stinney was electrocuted on June 16, 1944, four months prior to his 15th birthday.

CCWF’s Health Care Knocked

‘There is no standardization of laboratory tests ordered for newly arriving inmates’

Continued from Page 1

sending jail facility’s medication profile without designating the duration of the medication order,” the report said. “... the initial history and physical examination is not performed timely and providers do not adequately document history and physical findings.”

In one case, the examiners documented a 55-year-old woman who arrived at CCWF last June. Her medical history included several serious medical problems including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, problems with her blood levels, seizures and mental health issues. She had a hysterectomy in 1999. It took more than a week after her arrival for a physical examination to be completed. Medical providers did not perform a comprehensive medical history, although the patient told medical staff about her extensive health issues.

In another case, a 33-year-old woman also arrived in June at CCWF from the Los Angeles County Jail. Her medical history included HIV and a chronic infection, asthma and mental health issues. Upon her arrival, the reception nurse did not address a pending medical appointment even though it was noted on the jail transfer form. Her history and physical examination also were not performed within seven days of arrival. A week later, a doctor saw her and performed a brief HIV history. The doctor reordered HIV medications for two months and ordered a chest X-ray and laboratory tests, but did not include an HIV viral load or urinalysis. The following month another doctor saw her and determined that the HIV and hepatitis C

infection were in control, even though there were no laboratory tests.

The doctor determined that she had a boil and ordered skin cream for seven days. The next day, a nurse practitioner performed a history and physical examination, noting the boil was about 2.5 by 2 centimeters. The nurse practitioner’s clinical description differed significantly from the physician’s description and referred the inmate to the trauma unit for consideration of incision and drainage of the boil.

The report noted CCWF medical staff’s inability to downsize its doctors’ referral backlog, exacerbated by problems with the system’s new electronic medical records system.

The nursing and pharmacy staff told examiners that an inability to scan records in a timely manner limited the ability to timely and continually dispense medication to inmates. Staff reported that the new system is too labor intensive. “Staff reported that MedSATS is more labor intensive than previous systems.”

The examiners noted that staffing in the medical records department was reduced from 15 to six. At the same time, the inmate population increased, which overloaded the staff’s ability to scan medical records on a timely basis, hindering doctors from evaluating the inmates’ needs.

The report concluded that “We are impressed with CCWF health care leadership and believe that with adequate health care staffing, medical bed space, improved medical and nursing evaluations, and support from CCHCS (California Correctional Health Care Services), improvement at CCWF will likely follow.”

—By Charles David Henry

European Countries Refuse To Supply Execution Drugs

European Union countries do not allow drugs used for execution to be exported to the United States. The reason? European countries have a fierce hostility toward capital punishment, according to an Associated Press interpretive story.

“There’s one big reason the United States has a dearth of execution drugs so acute that some states are considering solutions such as firing squads and gas chambers,” Juergen Baetz of the AP reported.

“The phenomenon started nine years ago when the EU banned the export of products used for execution, citing its goal to be the ‘leading institutional actor and largest donor to the fight against the death penalty,’” the AP reported.

Despite the EU – and an Oklahoma pharmacy’s – strong opposition to lethal injections, the U. S. continues to find means to mix chemicals for use in executing inmates sentenced to death.

During a 2014 execution in Oklahoma, witnesses heard Michael Lee Wilson say, after the lethal injection, “I feel my whole body burning.”

In another Oklahoma death penalty case, inmate “Michael Taylor’s representatives had argued in a lawsuit that recent executions involving the drug pentobarbital would likely cause ‘inhumane pain,’” the AP reported.

Since the state of Ohio could not procure the powerful sedative pentobarbital, it took Dennis McGuire 26 min-

utes to die after a previously untested mix of chemicals began flowing into his body, gasping repeatedly as he lay on the gurney, the story reported.

In 2010, the state of Louisiana switched from the established three-drug protocol to a one-drug pentobarbital lethal injection, but eventually that drug also became unavailable because of European pressure.

“EU nations are notorious for disagreeing about most everything when it comes to common policy, but they all strongly — and proudly — agree on one thing: abolishing capital punishment”

judge’s examination in April regarding whether the state can proceed with the plan to execute Christopher Sepulvado, convicted in the 1992 killing of his 6-year-old stepson,” the report said.

“EU nations are notorious for disagreeing about most everything when it comes to common policy, but they all strongly — and proudly — agree on one thing: abolishing capital punishment,” according to the opinion of AP reporter Juergen Baetz.

Totalitarian regimes abused the death penalty up through the 20th century. Consequently, European public opinion is staunchly opposed to it, said the story.

The report continued, “The EU’s uncompromising stance has set off a cat-and-mouse game, with U.S. corrections departments devising new ways to carry out lethal injections only to hit updated export restrictions within months.”

Barba Lochbihler, chair of the European Parliament subcommittee on human rights, said, “Our political task is to push for an abolition of the death penalty, not facilitate its procedure.”

“The lethal injection that they’re using now in certain states has never been tested, verified let alone been approved for executions,” said Maya Foa of Reprieve, a Lond-based charity fighting the death penalty “This amounts to using humans as guinea pigs. No doctor would ever do that.”

—By Charles David Henry

CRI Program Celebrates Its First Graduation

By JulianGlenn Padgett
Staff Writer

Collette Carroll, the program director of San Quentin's California Reentry Institute, continues her late husband's work by teaching inmates tools for a successful transition before they leave prison.

California Reentry Institute (CRI) is one of several programs at San Quentin that helps inmates prepare for freedom.

CRI provides inmates with necessary tools that they can use prior to and after being released. It requires two years to complete.

The curriculum consists of personalized parole planning and life skills training. It also offers post-release assistance to inmates after their parole.

"CRI is about helping pre- and post-release inmates by placing them in an environment that teaches them skills that will translate into a successful return," Carroll said.

Carroll said her proposal for assisting inmates came when her late husband, Roland, recommended that she start a different self-help program at San Quentin.

"That was IMPACT, which I started 13 years ago when my beautiful husband, Roland, volunteered me," Carroll said. "IMPACT is an acronym for Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things."

Carroll said 20 men attended her first class, so it immediately became apparent to her they were doing something good. She continued teaching the

class for 11 years. "Years later the warden gave us the go-ahead to start this program. That's when Roland and I knew that we could do something else to cause another impact, so we started CRI."

"CRI is about helping pre- and post-release inmates by placing them in an environment that teaches them skills that will translate into a successful return"

Carroll is proud of IMPACT, but now her sights are set on her current agenda: gearing up for a new class after a CRI graduation Feb. 17.

"I'm astonished that we had the graduation, because we got the OK from the administration at 4 p.m. that afternoon," she said. The ceremony was held in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel in front of inmates, guests and outside volunteers.

"This graduation was an accomplishment in small miracles, but we did it, and I'm proud of the men," said Robert Morales, who has been incarcerated for more than 25 years.

Sentenced for first-degree murder, Morales, 44, said prison was challenging when he first

came in. He had a hard time adjusting to "the way people conducted themselves racially, ethically and culturally."

Morales was recruited by Carroll to join CRI after attending IMPACT. "She offered the invitation, and I knew her and what she represented, so I didn't hesitate," said Morales.

"We started out with 35 men and we graduated 25," said Frankie Smith, who met Carroll through IMPACT. "I was trained in that group to be a facilitator, and when she decided to start this group, CRI, she asked me if I would be willing to be an instructor, and I said yes."

Smith, 58, convicted of second-degree murder, has been incarcerated for 11 and a half years. He described the graduation as a hit.

"I was blown away by the network of outside people that support our program. They are people with immense compassion for our rehabilitation and our reentry into society," said Smith.

Carroll said throughout the course of the curriculum, something incredible took shape. While assisting the men



Collette Carroll, Program Director of CRI and its facilitators

with their rehabilitation, she found herself gaining just as much from the experience.

"In the process of helping the men, there was an invisible, intrinsic tradeoff. As they became more aware, we found they were helping us, too," she added.

Founded in 2008 with the help of Sam Vaughn, CRI has surpassed her expectations when it comes to pre- and post-release assistance.

"We knew that what we were doing was good work, but in reality there is still much to be done," she said.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Carroll uses her 30 years of business management experience to guide CRI.

"We have a nonprofit called

the Second Chance Boutique, which is open seven days a week. We tell everybody who enters that we are a nonprofit and our profits support our pre-post-release program," she said.

In the past, inmates received no help after they paroled. But now prison administrations are beginning to see that "for a parolee to stay successful after leaving prison, after-care is essential," she said.

"As a young girl, my father always told me that succeed or fail, what really counts at the end of the day is that you tried; you gave it your all and you did your best," Carroll said. "Our program shows these men how to do that."

Ex-Gang Member Works To Reform Criminal Justice

By Jerry Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

Anti-gang violence campaigner Aqeela Sherills was a gang member in the Watts section of Los Angeles before he went to college. His experiences inside the gang, plus the deaths of many of his friends, inspired him to work for criminal justice reform.

On Sept. 16, 2013, he spoke about overcrowding in California prisons and his efforts to abolish the death penalty on *Black Hollywood Live*, an online broadcast network dedicated to African American entertainment news, interviews and commentary. "*Justice Is Served*" is the network's legal news show.

On the news show, Sherills talked about how his own gang experiences had shaped his life, and how in one year, 1989, he lost 13 friends to gang violence. At age 19 he began working with football star Jim Brown, co-founding Amer-I-Can in order to heal gang violence. With Brown's help, Sherills forged a historic truce between the Crips and the Bloods in Watts in 1992.

Despite his efforts, Sherills was struck by violence once more when gang members in Watts killed his 18-year-old son Terrell, home from a college spring break in 2004.

"Despair and rage are understatement for what I felt after Terrell's murder," Sherills said. "But I eventually realized that attacking the root causes of violence would not only help me deal with my grief but also lead to preventing cycles of crime."

Despite being a crime victim himself, Sherills is a fierce advocate for abolishing the death penalty. He asserts that the death penalty system costs \$137 million a year while sentencing those same inmates to life without parole would cost only \$11.5 million, freeing up funds for crime prevention. He is working to put a new anti-death penalty measure on the California ballot in 2016.

Sherills believes that funding rehabilitation and mental health services will help ease overcrowded prisons. He thinks that diverting inmates to private or out-of-state prisons is a huge waste of money that could be better spent on education and mentoring programs.

Rehabilitation Through Gardening

'Making a positive difference in communities outside prison walls'

By Jimmy Martinez Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Rehabilitation is possible in San Quentin's organic vegetable garden through the Insight Garden Program (IGP), according to Andri Antoniades a reporter for *takepart* an online news source.

Planting Justice, an Oakland-based nonprofit, supports San Quentin's IGP gardening program. Planting Justice specializes in ecological education and urban food production, according to *takepart*.

The *takepart* article cites a *National Public Radio* statistic that more than "four out of 10 inmates return to prison within three years." However, IGP said that inmates involved in its program have a recidivism rate of less than 10 percent.

"Inmates learn about food justice, the theories and practices of permaculture design, the structural inequalities of the industrial food system and how food plays a role in human rights issues," Antoniades reported.

More than 1,000 inmates have gone through the program in the past 12 years.

Lennie Van Leonard, a participant in IGP was asked, "Are the classes nothing more than filling up some free time with vocational gardening by learning landscaping skills?"

"No, definitely not, Van Leonard said. "First, it allows us to experience a certain sense of normalcy through gardening from such an abnormal type of existence living within these walls. It also encourages us on a personal level to learn to become more centered and



Flourishing garden created by IGP

spiritually grounded by having a conscience, wanting to weed out the unwanted and tending to our own gardens within as well."

The *takepart* article reports that Connecticut and Minnesota also have gardening pro-

grams. "It's common for those correctional facilities to donate at least a portion, if not all, of what's grown to local food banks. That can help inmates feel like they're making a positive difference in communities outside their prison walls."

San Quentin’s Rec Supervisor Don ‘Coach’ DeNevi Displays His Creativity Through Painting

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Don “Coach” DeNevi, 76, has been supervising the recreation department at San Quentin since December of 2001, and although he says he loves his job, he can’t live without his art.

“Whenever I go home each day after working with my inmates on crisis after crisis, I paint. I must paint!” exclaimed DeNevi.

Growing up on the south side of Stockton during the 1940s and ‘50s, he says he came from a racially diverse group where, “all we cared about is if you could play ball.” But what DeNevi really cared about personally was history.

He took his love of history to College of the Pacific, where he majored in history and minored in art.

At that time, he said he really wasn’t interested in the applica-



Photo by DeNevi

Painting of the imaginary crops near Salinas Valley State Prison

tion of art, only the history of art. In his last semester before he was to receive his ‘bachelors degree, he said, he found himself short one art class from graduating.

At the insistence of a school administrator and a desire to graduate, DeNevi said he made his way to the art department and ended up in the only class left open at the time – a watercolor course. “That course changed my life. I’ve been painting ever since,” said DeNevi.

He often paints the landscapes that have dominated his life. He grew up in the Central Valley of California and worked in the prisons in the Salinas Valley before coming to work at

San Quentin. “My dad always wanted a grape vineyard; it has something to do with my Italian American heritage,” said DeNevi.

The landscapes DeNevi chooses to paint come from his imagination, he said. “In my head I have a vision – I’m going to have this kind of landscape, this type of sky, etc., but they never turn out how I imagined.”

He said this leaves him totally unsatisfied with his paintings. “If you’re ever, ever satisfied with what you’ve done, what you’ve achieved, you’re no artist – like my hero Gully Jimson in Joyce Carey’s ‘The Horse’s Mouth’ said, ‘The act of serious, genuine creativity, imagination,

watercolor paper, then washing 99 percent of the paint away in his kitchen sink. The finished paintings take him between four and six weeks to complete.

Although DeNevi acknowledges art will always be part of his life, he said his creativity often pushes him in different directions. He said he has

indeed the act bordering on genius because no one has ever done what you’ve just got through doing means that you’ve been rolled down a hill in a barrel of broken glass.”

DeNevi said the act of creation keeps him preoccupied and uncomfortable. “That is the way it should be, though, just like a woman knows the physical pain of childbirth, an artist feels the psychological pain of creation.”

DeNevi uses water-soluble paint in his own unique way; he said he starts by applying piles of paint to 300 pounds of

been spending a lot of time writing movie treatments.

Another project he said he will start soon is writing the history of San Quentin. “I expect that this project will take up the next 10 years of my life.”

Creating may be a painful process for DeNevi, but he has found pleasure in the time he spends at San Quentin. “I have been teaching, counseling, an administrator at all levels of education, from Adult Basic Education 1 at both Soledad and Salinas Valley State Prisons to grad students in the Ph.D. programs at U.C. Berkeley and U.C. Santa Cruz for 56 years... [but I] never found any position more personally rewarding than serving as coach at San Quentin.”

DeNevi’s art can be purchased at Stroud and Stroud Gallery in Pacific Grove, which carries six at a time. Prices for his art range between \$500 and \$800.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Coach DeNevi on the Lower Yard



Photo by DeNevi

Carmel Mission

Tony Saunders Displays Musical Talents on the Lower Yard

‘Everybody has something to offer in music; even if it’s one note’

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

On an evening in April, bassist Tony Saunders, 58, gave a memorable performance for some of the men at San Quentin State Prison. He also discussed music, demonstrated his playing style and talked about his own road to recovery.

A dozen inmates who attend a weekly guitar workshop listened to Saunders play his custom bass and discuss his career playing with greats such as Stevie Wonder.

“He’s probably one of the most eclectic persons I’ve ever been around,” said Saunders of Wonder.

Saunders played songs from his new album/CD, “Appaloosa,” released earlier this year on SFRrecords. He produced and recorded the album himself.

During his visit, Saunders gave lessons on bass-playing techniques as he told anecdotes about his life, music and overcoming his struggle with addiction.

Inmate Joe Mason asked Saunders if it was “a hard transition” to go from playing on a four-string bass to a five-string bass.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Tony Saunders performing for prisoners at the Day of Peace event

Saunders smiled and said, “I grew up playing Fender basses,” which are typically four-string instruments. His smile was an indication that the change was not an overnight change.

“Romancing My Life” is one of the many singles Saunders performed for Kurt Huget’s Thursday evening guitar class.

“My songs are all about romance,” said Saunders.

Saunders said during his long career he played with the famed Oakland-based gospel group

The Hawkins Family and the Love Center Choir for several years during the 1980s.

According to his biography (on Wikipedia), Saunders released his first gospel project, “He Lifted Me Up,” in 2005.

“I put a gospel recording on each one of my recordings,” Saunders said.

A soft gospel song, “What Is This,” is another single with memorable lyrics from Saunders’ “Appaloosa” album.

“If you have it in your heart

and soul, it doesn’t lie,” Saunders said. “All of my songs that I’ve written from the heart have done well.”

“Everybody has something to offer in music; even if it’s one note,” Saunders said.

When Saunders solos on the bass he uses many of the old-school thumping and plucking styles from the 1970s, reminiscent of Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, Stanley Clark and Louis Johnson.

Huget played guitar, accompanying Saunders on the song “All Blues,” written by Miles Davis.

Saunders said he has worked with many artists over the span of his career, including Buddy Miles and Mitch Mitchell in the Band of Gypsies and some up-and-coming hip-hop performers.

Miles “was a great guy to play with,” said Saunders, adding, “The young rappers I deal with, I try to turn them back on to the music.”

When discussing addiction, Saunders said he has been clean and sober since May 1983 “when my daughter was born. I haven’t done drugs since then.”

Aside from Saunders’ pro-

fessional career, he plays for Bread and Roses, an organization that takes music to people in places where they would not otherwise have access to live performances.

Romancing his life apparently is something Saunders takes seriously. He said he is getting married for the fourth time next year.

According to Saunders’ biography, he comes from a musical family. His father, Merl, a famous keyboard player, started him out with music at an early age.

“Tony received his first piano lesson from Herbie Hancock,” Wikipedia reported. Sly Stone is among Saunders’ early teachers.

Saunders received a fellowship and graduated from the prestigious San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Tom Fogerty, the brother of John Fogerty of the group Creedence Clearwater Revival, gave Saunders his first bass. At age 18, he played with Jerry Garcia.

In addition, Saunders has recorded movie scores, corporate videos, commercials, television shows and CDs at his studio Magic Castle.

COMMEMORATING THE AMALA WALK

Continued from Page 1

expected,” said Texan Cranston “Breez” Smith, 23.

Breez is a fourth grade teacher, who five days earlier was in a classroom with about dozen 10-year-olds. He’s participated in every San Quentin Amala walk.

The Amala Foundation represents children from more than 20 countries, with 16 languages and various religions. The foundation holds weeklong residential summer camps in Texas and California for teenagers from around the world. The California summit, scheduled for July 21-27 in Foresthill, still has space for young men ages 14-18 who live in California. For more information go to www.amalafoundation.org.

“During the day, there’s a morning circle where participants can share in prayer from their culture,” said Amala representative Eden Trenor. “All meals are cooked together as a way to unite without language,” she said. “There are sports, games and talking circles.”

Trenor said the summits do not use traditional classroom settings. The children meet informally. “It’s about cultural exchanges,” she said.

“What I learned from the peace summit is, no matter what your past, there’s a con-



Photo by Michael Nelson

JulianGlenn “Luke” Padgett opens the Amala event with a prayer

nection that can be made from just being your authentic self,” said a purple-shirted Amala guest, Hanlon Johnson, 20, who’d just come from the Texas summit. Hanlon lives in Marin County. He said it was his first time inside San Quentin.

San Francisco native Matthew Makins, 67, said it was also his first time in San Quentin, “I am thrilled that we’re sharing the moment.”

An emotional Vanessa Stone said, “I cannot tell what you are giving. I thank you for that.” Stone sang a song about the values of human life. She said the lyrics were inspired by words from the Dalai Lama. “Thank

you for not wasting your human life,” she said.

“Happiness is not a limited resource,” Stone said. Amala representative Nanny said, “Thank you for showing me what a man can be.”

“I invite you to think about your life. Transformation is here,” Stone said. “What you’ve done today is to connect with a world without question. I invite you to allow yourself to be born again. Never underestimate the power of God.”

Evelyn Apoko, abducted and held captive in war-torn Uganda, survived a bombing raid and eventually made her way to the United States.

“I do not blame them for what they’ve done to me,” Apoko said, referring to the soldiers who bombed her. “We were all doing what we thought necessary to do to survive.”

Apoko said, “I look beyond my own imagination through the work that I do with Amala Foundation. The foundation has given me the voice — a voice possible in the village, and in prison. We all deserve peace and justice in the world.”

“It’s such a blessing to be



Photo by Michael Nelson

Kathy Harris and Vanessa Stone lead the first lap



Photo by Michael Nelson

Steve Emrick and Vanessa Stone address the crowd

here. It doesn’t matter where you come from. We’re all people. We all have a heart,” Johnson said. “The main thing I’ve learned from Amala is that we’re all people with a heart. It’s all here. We don’t have to search for it. So, let’s all live together. We are all one tribe, one village.”

Vid Francis, 26, said, “When someone gets beyond understanding that hurt people hurt people, they understand that

life is life.”

“After lap, after lap of walking with you men, I’ve come to understand that you are not defined by the act that got you here,” Francis added.

Breez performed a couple of *Spoken Word* pieces with inmate Antwan “Banks” Williams. In the first one, Banks began with, “I don’t wanna make a move ... Thank you Jesus, for giving me what I need,” followed by Breez rapping, “revolution sharp enough to cut the noose ‘n’ knot.”

The second *Spoken Word* piece had Dwight Krizman playing congas and Lee Jaspas adding guitar. The inspirational performance ended by Banks saying that he feels “blessed for today, because tomorrow is not promised.”

More music came by Krizman, bongos; Jaspas, guitar; Joe Mason, bass; Gino Sevacos, guitar; JulianGlenn “Luke” Padgett, keyboard. The song *Let us Pray* was written for the Amala children.

Jun Homomoto assisted Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick in escorting guests in and out of San Quentin.

“This event allows you to be involved in something larger than yourself,” Emrick told the inmates.

The fundraiser ended with more than 200 participants joining hands.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Outside guests and staff of the Amala Foundation

ALLIANCE CELEBRATES ANNUAL BANQUET

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

San Quentin's Protestant Chapel served as an assembly hall for more than 100 invited guests, including community members from the surrounding Bay Area to witness 64 inmates graduate from two prosocial programs.

The inmates graduated from the Social Justice and Anger Management programs taught by Alliance for CHANGE (AFC).

"It's an eye-opening visit, for those who've never set foot in prison," said Jose Cisneros, San Francisco city treasurer. "We have no idea what it's like to be in here."

Cisneros said attending the graduation gave him his first opportunity to come inside San Quentin.

"We have no idea what it's like when good programs are given a chance to reach out and make a difference for folks in prison who are ready to make a change. Hearing directly from prison inmates is powerful."

AFC curriculum begins before inmates are released from prison. The process continues when the person returns to his



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Alliance for Change mentors

community with material and interpersonal support during reentry.

"Whether you are in blue or come from outside these walls, you have come here because you are committed to change," said inmate Abdur Raheem Thompson, vice-president of AFC. "If we commit to action and that action is committed to healthy community, then it is powerful."

Mentors of AFC say most of the prison prosocial programs are focused

on "self-discovery, accepting responsibility and realizing the necessity for change." However, AFC expands the process by "asking men to think critically about their role in the community and larger societal structure," Thompson said. "Action from cognition is the mental process of knowing," he added.

Kim Richman, Ph.D., president of the board of directors of AFC, said, "The power of change is why I've been coming to this prison for 11 years."

Inmate Byron Hibbert, 58, was found suitable for parole the day before the graduation. He has been incarcerated for 21 years for attempted murder.

After arriving at San Quentin in late 2011, he said he enrolled in a program called The Work. "I learned how to take responsibility for my actions," Hibbert said. "The program asked provoking

questions, and I had to answer by showing how it fits into my life. By doing that, I gained insight into my actions."

"I will be deported to Jamaica, where my family resides," Hibbert said. "I have a job as a shipping clerk waiting for me. Alliance for Change taught me how to participate in public affairs, to have a voice in the community and about the different types of social justice."

"Every lifer who goes before the board just needs to be transparent," Hibbert added. "Don't let the commissioners frustrate you. Keep programming."

Executive Producer of "Life of the Law" Nancy Mullane said, "This was a wonderful event to get together share and hear stories and see the power of change behind the walls. If only it could be more evident to the outside world."

"Thank you for letting us come here to break bread with you," said AFC facilitator Nathaniel Moore. "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of programs, but AFC brings individual perspective to the conversation and time commitment. The amount of influence inmates have on free people is extremely powerful. Most of the folks I encounter, the lessons we learn are far more powerful than the lessons you learn from us."

"There are many who think things are fine the way they are. We still need to bring them in through empathy," Thompson said. "Empathy to those who do not believe as we do, allow them to under-



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Inmates and guests being served food



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Father and daughter duo Dr. Peter Richman and Dr. Kim Richman



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Nancy Mullane enjoying a meal with the men in blue

stand that we are listening to them. Empathy is a tool that could be used to bring a safer community. AFC allowed me to get to the door and understand the causes that led me to CDCR."

Guests and inmates broke bread at a brunch consisting of chicken strips, roast beef, macaroni and cheese, salad and vegetarian lasagna prepared by inmate cook John Parratt and his crew.

The Color Guard consisted of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin: Team Leader Craig R. Johnson; California Flag Bearer Norfleet Stewart; Flag Escort D. Ernest Soltero; and Flag Escort David Tarvan.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Pearl Harbor is also called "Gibraltar of the Pacific."

England, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries executed people for stealing items worth no more than 40 cents.

Approximately \$400 million was the cost of building the Panama Canal.

Clearly the Battle of Antietam became the bloodiest single-day battle in American history with close to 23,000 deaths.

Extra, extra! The Shot Heard Around The World? Archduke Franz Ferdinand was murdered in Sarajevo after six failed attempts.

First elected female to become prime minister of Sri Lanka was Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960. She won re-election in 1970.

Under the rulership of 18 emperors, the Sung Dynasty lasted for 320 years.

Losing 250,00 men and 600 tanks during The Battle of the Bulge, left Hitler no backup.

Sudoku Corner

By Ashmus "Humphrey" Troy

					4	7		
7		6		5			2	
		9			2			5
6	1					3		7
			4	1	5			
5		8					1	9
9			2			5		
	3			9		8		6
		5	7					

9	4	1				5		
3			6	1	4			
7						8	4	1
	1				2		9	
	3			6			1	
	6		9				3	
4	8	2						7
		3	8	5	7			6
		5				1	8	9

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

7	9	3	2	6	5	1	4	8
1	4	8	9	3	7	5	2	6
6	5	2	1	8	4	9	7	3
5	6	9	7	2	8	3	1	4
3	1	4	5	9	6	7	8	2
8	2	7	4	1	3	6	5	9
4	3	6	8	5	1	2	9	7
9	8	1	6	7	2	4	3	5
2	7	5	3	4	9	8	6	1

6	8	4	7	1	9	2	3	5
3	5	9	4	6	2	1	8	7
7	1	2	8	5	3	9	4	6
5	9	7	6	3	4	8	2	1
1	2	8	5	9	7	3	6	4
4	6	3	2	8	1	7	5	9
2	4	1	3	7	6	5	9	8
8	7	6	9	2	5	4	1	3
9	3	5	1	4	8	6	7	2

POETRY

Rising

By Raphael Calix

As an angelic force in the world
With everlasting traces of love
The encouragement over bigotry and hatred
We hear you loud and clear, Dear "Maya"
Marching proudly through the old neighborhoods
With filaments into our hearts
Overcoming the blight of racism
We found safety in her bosom
Mute-yet alertly listening to "Maya's" musing
We continue to absorb all of the love
Driving away the bugaboo's taunting glare
Here her sing, write and teach at Wakeforest
Living with passion and flair
And attentive to a quietitude within the "Doctor"
Indeed, loving every voice of caged birds crying
Visualizing the sameness in our humanity
Uncompromisingly stern with, say: "Thank You's"
Never again to sink in pity and victimhood
But to rise high in spirithood for "Maya"
Here, there can be no death, as a destination
For nothing may enter in to erase a legacy
The golden words as foot-prints
Of grace and magnitude of blessings
Duly imparted for all creeds
From our dearly beloved Mother
Esteemed into our souls
As rare as a gift from G-d
To live and rise in hope
Awaiting the rapture of truth

We'll love and cherish you always
Long Live, Dr. Maya Angelou

From Around the World is a new section in San Quentin News. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany and Africa have answered the call. Let's hear from the rest of the world.

Greetings from around the world



Reinhard Schewrich enjoying the San Quentin News in Germany

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

Is There Such a Thing As a Good Prison?

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

Going to prison and getting “educated” and becoming “rehabilitated” is a commendable achievement. However, what we as a society must focus on is confronting those social causes that make prison and its rehabilitative programs necessary in the first place. Society’s goal should not be on making prisons better. It should be about making society better. We should not solely focus on those prison rehabilitative programs that fix the problem while neglecting the causes.

There’s a great deal of talk about the failed and broken prison system. And, in the same breath, we hear stories

about how wonderful San Quentin is as the model for rehabilitation. Self-deprecating words such as, “I’m so glad I came to prison. If I hadn’t gotten caught and come to San Quentin, I’d probably be dead.” Does this really justify a need for “good” prisons and mass incarceration? Now don’t misunderstand me, I don’t want to dismiss all the good that has been accomplished by those who have gotten help, made amends and transformed their lives after being filtered through the prison pipeline. I just don’t think we should lose sight of the causal social problem. The problem, like the solution, has both a personal as well as a social dimension, demanding transformation on both levels.

You often hear people say things like, “Well, MY father didn’t have any government assistance and HE made it just fine,” or “Look at someone like Barack Obama; he’s African American, was raised without a father, and he made something of himself. In fact, he became president of the United States. What’s wrong with these young people?” I don’t think it’s fair that we should judge what most people are capable of by comparing them to the accomplishments of an extraordinary few. That applies to prison rehabilitation, too. Just because some people are able to come out of prison transformed against terrible odds doesn’t mean that prisons are good and necessarily helped them do that.

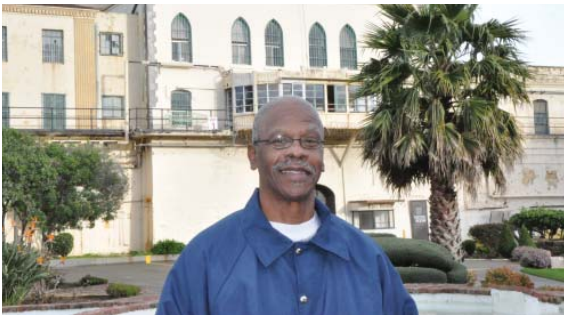


Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Watani Stiner

Some people will endure any horrific circumstance and find a way to grow. If there is a woman who was raped by her father, and she manages to grow up into a kind, forgiving person able to accomplish much, you wouldn’t say, “Well, maybe being raped by her father was good for her, because look how well she turned out.”

We should be mindful that there are societal forces at play influencing our lack of community. Human interactions are being interrupted and eroded due to an array of factors, including chronic addiction to drugs and technol-

ogy. These social factors destroy human relationships and alienate us from any sense of responsibility. People see the one side: Criminals lack care for their impact on others, are selfish and are willing to be destructive or greedy without considering the effect on society. But there is not an equivalent recognition of the values in society that promote such a mindset. Valuing human life, valuing honesty, looking out for others—those need to be woven into the core fabric of our vision as a nation in order for them to be lived out by most people most of the time.

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In a story of historical fiction that takes the fatality of 40 million people, uses it metaphorically and then goes on to say, “even death has a heart,” could its readers find empathy for its narrator who reflects on life apathetically?

After grasping the fact that death is the omnipresence in *The Book Thief*, reading it takes you on an emotional rollercoaster in the course of its wartime setting. In describing impending doom, Death said, “They would all smile at the beauty of destruction,” adding, “No one had served the Fuehrer better than I.”

Markus Zusak creates *The Book Thief* through characters who come to realize that death is inescapable while living in Nazi Germany.

The story is an invariable rummage through Liesel Meminger’s life — her stepmother, Rosa Uberman, a strict but loving mama; her stepfather, Hans, who kept hold of his values throughout the story, Rudy

Stiner, her best friend, and Max Vandenberg, the one she plays “stand over man” to.

Zusak peers into the everyday life of the Ubermans, doing their best to portray the blissfulness of a close-knit family during the unimaginably worst of times.

As the plot of *The Book Thief* unfolds, one cannot avoid the stark contrast between the kindnesses of the Uberman family versus societal pressure to exact evil upon innocent neighbors and friends. This German family did not buy into the social norms emblematic of Germany during Jewish oppression.

Hans overlooked the advantages of joining the Nazi party, even though it would have protected his family from rebuke

and criticism. Although Hans did eventually join the Nazi party, he simply could not buy into its racist ideology and hate Jews, as his government ordered all Germans to do. Max was his friend, and Liesel lovingly protected Max at all costs.

Even though the Ubermans’ lives had changed in the most significant way when they decided to hide Max, they had to pretend to live normally. Zusak wrote, “Imagine being slapped in the face and acting as if nothing had happened, then think of doing that day after day. That is what it is like hiding a Jew.”

However, Max could not avoid the inevitable. He lingers in the Ubermans’ basement. “The Jewish rat, back in his hole,” writes Zusak.

When Hans was sent to war,

Max lamented to Hans the dilemma of being sent to Stalingrad. Hans came back with, “It could be worse. I could be you.” Nevertheless, each day Max lived a basement life, he sought to touch the sky. He kept his head up.

As an example, Max painted all of the pages of “Mien Kampf” white and wrote a story about the “stand-over man.”

Understanding what a “stand-over man” is in relation to a teenaged book thief who is complicit in hiding a Jew became an important plot element in *The Book Thief*. It allows readers to identify with individuals who would make heroic efforts in support of the powerless, and identify the importance of uplifting the most downtrodden in society, or

appreciate the value of giving help to someone living a dismal life.

When the storyline delves into Liesel’s collection of books through thievery, it is unavoidable to notice Zusak’s sly interjection of social criticisms. A maturing plot through protagonist Liesel’s childlike voice opens the door in a belief that collective growth is inevitable and reconciliation between the forces of good and evil are to be expected.

Zusak inventories plight in a way that although disaster is anticipated, it is still poignant when read. Examples are found in the chapter *The Long Walk to Dachau*, as Hans “would perfect the art of forgetting” while the chapter *The Bombing of Munich* describes the night as “long with reading and bombing.” At one point Zusak even describes fear as “shiny.”

In *The Book Thief*, Death tells us there are many ways to dissect the living and scrutinize how we humans, as Death refers to people, treat each other.

BOOK REVIEW

Even Death Has a Heart

FCC Order Limits Cost of Inmate Collect Calls

Prison Policy Initiative: ‘The Commission needs to hear from us that this is a critical next step’

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prisoners are able to make less expensive out-of-state collect telephone calls, thanks to an order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The FCC order limits the cost of interstate, collect telephone calls made from jails and prisons.

The ruling “marks the first definitive action from the FCC to control the broken prison and jail telephone industry,”

said Peter Wagner, executive director of *Prison Policy Initiative*.

“We absolutely agree that in-state rates must be regulated as well...”

Beginning Feb.11, calls home made by inmates from prison or jail no longer cost

families as much as \$17. These new rules will help to improve how the prison telephone market operates, Wagner commented.

According to *PPI*, the FCC is soliciting comments from the public related to “expanding the scope and operation of their order.”

The American Civil Liberties Union is also sponsoring a petition to spur more action by the FCC to regulate in-state calls, which account for the majority of inmate phone traffic in the United States, according to The

Nation magazine.

“We absolutely agree that in-state rates must be regulated as well. The FCC has opened up a new comment period to get public input on regulating in-state rates,” said Leah Sakala, policy analyst for *PPI*.

The FCC has also announced Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking the public’s input on the possibility of other regulations. The FCC indicated it wants to make certain fees for jail and prison telephone calls will be “just, reasonable, and cost-based,”

PPI reported.

The FCC order sets a maximum rate of 21 cents per minute for debit and prepaid calls, and 25 cents for collect calls.

Wagner said, “The two largest prison phone companies, Securus and Global Tel Link, filed petitions to delay implementation” of the order.

“The commission needs to hear from us that this is a critical next step” in regulating the way telephone companies do business, said Sakala, referring to regulation of in-state rates.

Health & Wellness

Prisoners’ Survey Reveals Unique Ways to Keep Healthy

By K. Himmelberger
Staff Writer

When you think of prison, thoughts of listless inmates wasting away in cells come to mind. However, wellness is alive in the most unusual place, San Quentin State Prison. According to an informal survey, 75 percent of prisoners in the prison’s West Block participated in some form of wellness activity.

The survey revealed that 37 percent walked three miles or more per week. Thirty-five percent of the participant did pushups, 30 percent meditated and 25 percent did bar work. Eleven people did yoga at least once a week, and four participated in Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Wellness is defined as a person’s overall well-being. It is a balance of mind, body and spirit. Retroflexion, which is also known as meditation, is

the observation of the self, a technique Daoists use to accomplish balance. It is called “returning the light.” Daoists turn the light of their awareness back upon themselves, watching their own watching and observing their observations. Once viewed from within, Daoists can separate themselves from their issues simply by letting go of them. “Daoists calm the mind in meditation through deliberate forgetting and relaxation,” says Daoist teacher He Feng Dao Shi.

Qi Gong and Tai Chi are meditation and relaxation techniques used by the Chinese as traditional medicine for at least 4,000 years.

Like Qi Gong, other ancient Chinese internal healing techniques can be “described as a way for working with life energy. It may be practiced daily with the aim of health maintenance and disease prevention,”

says Harry Croft, M.D.

Internal healing techniques are intended to be harmonious with the natural rhythms of time and season. They are based on the concept of Ying and Yang, which involves meditating, cleaning, strengthening/recharging, circulating and dispersing Qi.

According to Ryan Abbott, M.D., evidence from randomized controlled trials suggests that Tai Chi and Qi Gong improve physical and mental well-being. Studies show:

Severe knee osteoarthritis pain was reduced and mood and physical functioning improved more than with standard stretching exercises.

Quality of life and the functioning capacity of women with breast cancer improved, while it declined in control groups that only received supportive therapy.

Parkinson’s disease and



Photo by Sam Hearn

Bruce “Rahsaan” Banks doing yoga on the Lower Yard

stroke patients showed an improvement in balance and ability to walk. Blood level of B-type natriuretic protein, an

indicator of heart failure, also improved.

Duration and quality of sleep significantly improved.

Brain volume increased, memory and thinking scores improved.

“Daoists calm the mind in meditation through deliberate forgetting and relaxation”

According to the San Quentin Medical Department, there has been an increase in problems with high blood pressure, chronic pain and obesity. If used consistently, Qi Gong and Tai Chi could answer and improve the physical and mental health of many prisoners.

According to Abbott, “Mind-body practices tend to be less costly and cause fewer side effects, and they can enhance the effectiveness of prescription drugs to reduce the necessary doses.”



Photo by Sam Hearn

Prisoners doing yoga in the Catholic Chapel

Santa Clara County Expresses Concern About Security and Health Care After Realignment

By Antonio Alvarado
Journalism Guild Writer

Realignment has Santa Clara County officials concerned about security and health care improvements in its jails, reports *Correctional News*.

Realignment is the state’s response to a federal order for California to cap its prisons to levels where adequate health care could be delivered to its inmates. One component is keeping low-level offenders in county jails instead of sending them to a state prison.

An assessment made last November placed the county’s jail

population at just over 4,000 inmates, nearly 700 of which were diverted from state facilities as part of the realignment plan. “Acts of violence against facility staff have increased noticeably since Realignment, up from 10 over a six-month period in 2012 to 17 in the same time frame in 2013,” *Correctional News* reported. In addition, the report says there is an increase in gang activity, which caused jailers to keep rival gangs separated.

There is an older population entering the jail system, according to the report—increasing the need for medical attention to chronic illnesses.

Adding to the problems in the jails is as more inmates are shifted to its system, the number of high-security inmate rises. According to the report, the number of high-security inmates is 43 percent higher than just over a year ago, including a 30 percent increase in inmates convicted of murder.

Jail staff is also tasked with “managing a sharp increase in aging and mentally ill inmates,” *Correctional News* shows. “Roughly 25 percent more inmates are requiring daily medication to manage their various conditions.”

In 1997, Abel Esparza, 60, was

convicted in Santa Clara County Superior Court under the Three-Strikes law. He was sentenced to 25 years to life.

Last November, California voters changed the law so that three-strikers who were convicted of non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual felonies could ask the court for a reduced sentence.

Esparza qualified for a re-sentencing hearing and was brought to Santa Clara County jail to await his court appearance.

Esparza said the jail conditions were “terrible. It resembled CDCR, before Plata and Coleman.”

The *Plata v. Brown* and *Cole-*

man v. Brown are the lawsuits where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that CDCR’s health care and mental health services are inadequate, thus violating the U.S. Constitution’s Eighth Amendment.

Esparza said, “I could hardly wait to return back to San Quentin, because the jail has highly increased in gang activities.”

Correctional News reports that the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$500,000 — made available through a state trust — for an assessment that “will review the jails’ current capabilities and future needs.”

Federal Study Encourages Early Intervention To Curb Youth Delinquency

'Children are exposed to violence every day in their homes, schools and communities'

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

Juvenile delinquency and victimization is widespread among youth aged 10-17, and early intervention is needed to cope with the problem, a federal study reports.

The report examined four categories of juvenile delinquency and victimization:

Those who were primarily delinquents and not victims

Those who were primarily victims and not delinquents

Those who were both delinquents and victims

And, those who were neither victims nor delinquents

Juvenile delinquents are sometimes victims too, but not always, according to the U.S. Department of Justice: *National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence* (www.ojp.usdoj.gov).

"Children are exposed to violence every day in their homes, schools and communities," according to the report. "... Such exposure can cause them significant physical, mental and emotional harm with long-term effects that can last well into adulthood."

When juveniles are both delinquents and victims, they show a higher rate of victimization than juveniles who are primarily victims, the study concluded. Girls who are both delinquent and victims experience a particularly high level of sexual victimization, data showed.

In addition, juveniles who are both delinquent and victims demonstrate more delinquency than the primarily delinquent groups. Improving strategies for identifying and helping this group of children are an obvious priority, according to the study.

Juveniles who are both delinquents and victims receive less social support and experience larger rates of unhealthy parenting, according to the report. They are subject to more life adversities and mental health issues than juveniles who are primarily victims or delinquents, the study found.

The disparities in victimization are not attributed to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, family structure, disability status, school performance, and physical features, the study reported.

Researchers point to early intervention as a good place to start

fixing the disparity and suggest an emphasis on components that decrease sexual aggression and harassment. Intervention should occur before the fifth grade when pubertal changes in girls occur, the report states.

Juveniles' transitions to high school are another problem-area as the report noted that there is less supervision and more independence for high school students than middle school students. The result is that the high school experience may expose juveniles who are both delinquent and victims to older delinquent role models.

New Proposed Sentencing Law Hopes To Solve Realignment Problems

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

A sentencing commission is being proposed to help solve a variety of problems in California's criminal justice system.

Supporters say such a commission would allow the state to revisit the purpose of sentencing in this post-Realignment era where the state prisons remain overcrowded. The commission could provide an informed and structured decision-making approach, which already exists in at least 20 other states.

SENTENCING REFORM

California is in an urgent need of sentencing reform, but the road to get there may be long and arduous, said Kate McCracken of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. She was appointed in 2012 to the new San Francisco Sentencing Commission.

Would a sentencing commission do the job? McCracken asked. Since 1976, a state sentencing commission has been recommended at least nine times.

"During the past 30 years, over 1,000 sentencing enhancement bills passed in the Legislature," McCracken wrote in a CJCJ blog last year. "The complexity of these bills, as well as their punitive nature, has increased the number of individuals committed to state prison with a

trend for longer sentences."

JUSTICE REFORM

McCracken noted U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is joining the movement toward criminal justice reform. In a speech, Holder decried the system as broken, ineffective and unsustainable.

"It's time, in fact it's well past time, to address persistent needs and unwarranted disparities by considering a fundamentally new approach," Holder said.

McCracken pointed out that the system varies among California's 58 counties. He noted that four percent of felony drug convictions result in a commitment to prison statewide. But the figures range from 17 percent in Kings County to half of a percent in Contra Costa County.

With this type percent range, it is time for California's justice system to progress into the 21st century and have fair, equitable and efficient, McCracken said.

Senate Bills Offer Second Chance for Juveniles

'We cannot write any child off for the rest of their lives'

Continued from Page 1

cannot write any child off for the rest of their lives. We must at least give them the chance to atone and seek forgiveness for what they've done."

Gonzalez's lawyers told The Associated Press "he was a model prisoner" since entering prison for his part in the fatal attempted carjacking.

Supporters of the law that allowed Gonzalez to be resentenced said, "Those who commit crimes as juveniles should be given a second chance," the Merced Sun-Star reported.

Opponents of the law, including victim rights organizations and some representatives of law enforcement, said the law "would subject survivors to relive the experience."

"There isn't a day that goes by when I'm not reminded of the wrong, the harm and the pain I've caused," said Gonzalez.

"Young people have an incredible capacity for rehabilitation," said Yee, who is also a child psychologist by training.

According to the Merced Sun-Star, California has more than 300 inmates serving sentences of life without the possibility of parole for felony convictions committed when

they were teen-agers.

"California is among 39 states that allow judges to sentence minors to life in prison," the Sun-Star reported.

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sentences of this nature are unconstitutional for minors, pointing to the use as cruel and unusual punishment.

California law already allows judges the discretion to sentence juveniles to 25 years to life, the Sun-Star reported.

Since 2012, Gov. Jerry Brown has signed two bills into law making it possible for juveniles serving sentences of life without and life with parole able to lessen their terms.

"The consequences of murder need to be severe," said Christine Ward of Crime Victims Action Alliance, a non-profit organization that lobbied against each bill.

In September 2013, Brown signed SB 260, which allows certain juveniles serving life sentences an earlier opportunity for release, the Marin Independent Journal reported.

According to the IJ, the law "requires the parole board to give 'great weight' to the diminished culpability" of adolescent offenders.

"A lot of people think if you take a life, you lose your life. I just think, particularly when

we're talking about young people, the analysis has to be deeper and more complex," said Calvin.

There is no guarantee of release. San Quentin inmate Michael Nelson's 25 year-to-life sentence does not make him eligible for the possibility of parole for another 10 years, the IJ reported.

Nelson and about 16 other inmates are involved in a prison group, Kids Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT), made up of juveniles who were sentenced to life.

"The men have drawn acclaim for their focus on self-improvement through education and counseling," the IJ reported.

"They are proof in the flesh of why we should never throw our kids away," said Scott Budnick, a producer in Hollywood and advocate for reform in the juvenile justice system.

In 1988 Howard Jones, also a Kid CAT member, committed a double homicide and was subsequently sentenced to two life sentences

with the possibility of parole.

"I made choices that led up to the homicides as a result of my irrational thinking, confused state of mind, immaturity, lack of knowledge and life experience," said Jones.

SB 9 will not benefit Jones because his crimes did not involve special circumstances, which could have increased his sentence to life without the possibility of parole.

Jones said he is hopeful because of the ongoing steps

lawmakers are taking to establish fair and rational sentencing for juvenile offenders sentenced as adults.

"My decisions as a youth have had a devastating effect on my victim's family and friends, as well as on my own family and friends," said Jones.

Jones said new sentencing guidelines, such as those in SB 9 and SB 260, covers all categories of juvenile offenders sentenced as adults.

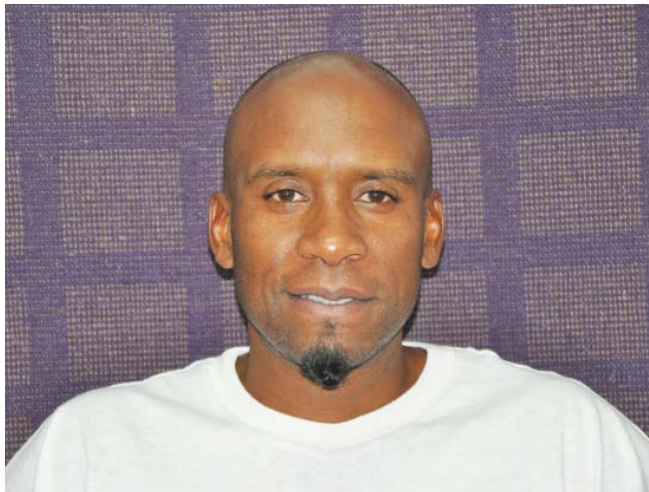


Photo by Mike Nelson

Howard Jones

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About the Holy Month of Ramadan

‘You still have a duty to Allah to fast this holy month’

By Aaron Taylor
Sport Writer

Fasting in the holy month of Ramadan while incarcerated has challenges. Here are questions frequently asked by incarcerated Muslims:

Q1: Do I still have to fast during Ramadan even though I am in prison?

A: Yes, you do. Allah states in the Holy Qur’aan (HQ) at Chapter 2 Verse 183: *“O’ ye who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, in the hopes that you will gain God Consciousness.”* (HQ 2:183).

Q2: Do I start fasting when the news says Mecca has started?

A: No, you do not. Mecca is nine to 12 hours ahead of us – depending upon where you are located in the United States. Therefore, if the news report states that Mecca has started Friday, then you do not start until Saturday, the following day.

Q3: As a non-Muslim, can I fast during Ramadan?

A: Yes, you can. The verse quoted above did not say, *“O’ ye who are Muslim,”* it says, *“O’ ye who believe.”* (HQ 2:183).

Q4: Do I, as a Muslima

(female Muslim), fast during the time of my monthly cycle?

A: No, you do not. Women make up those days missed later in the year, or they can feed a poor person.

Q5: When is the latest that I can eat Suhoor?

A: Allah states *“...eat and drink until the light changes...”* (HQ 2:185).

Q6: My breath smells during Ramadan. Can I rinse my mouth out during the daylight hours with mouthwash so I do not offend anyone?

A: It is better to use either peppermint or lemon flavored miswak during Ramadan if you are around other people who are not fasting.

Q7: Can I work out during fasting hours?

A: Yes, you can. However, do not work out to the point of complete exhaustion. Do whatever you normally do, just modify it, staying aware that you are fasting.

Q8: What am I supposed to do if I do not feel welcome at the Masjid to receive a Suhoor meal?

A: Allah states, *“...all of you hold fast to the Rope of Allah ... and be not divided amongst yourselves...”* (HQ 3:103).

Sunni, Shi’a, Sufi, Salafi, N.O.I., 5 percenter, Moorish Science Temple, etc., all must meet in the same Masjid inside of prison. Allah says, *“There is no compulsion in the religion,”* (HQ 2:256). The Suhoor is a right for all Muslims. In this type of situation, you can do the following:

1. Explain your situation to the Muslim chaplain. See if you can go get your Suhoor meal and return to your cell/dorm.

2. See if another Muslim can bring the Suhoor meal to you.

3. If neither of these works, the day before Ramadan starts, save your lunch. Then, eat that lunch as your Suhoor meal. Go to breakfast and save that, as well as your lunch. In the evening, go get your dinner and save that until its time to break your fast.

Break your fast with water and something sweet to eat (if possible). Then, after Maghrib

prayer, eat your breakfast that you saved. During the time between Isha prayer and when you decide to sleep (or if you go to sleep and wake in the night to eat something), eat the dinner that you saved. When you wake to start the day, eat the lunch as a Suhoor. You can do this every day and get through Ramadan. You still have a duty to Allah to fast this holy month.

“All of you hold fast to the Rope of Allah ... and be not divided amongst yourselves..”

Q9: I have to take food and water with my medication. How do I do this and still fast?

A: Allah states, *“... but whoever is sick or on a journey... feed a poor person...”* (HQ 2:184).

In this case, you have two options. The first is to break your fast and feed a poor person.

The second option is to eat and drink the amount necessary for the medication only.

Q10: Is there more than one way to fast during Ramadan?

A: No. However, there are three levels of fasting during Ramadan:

(a) The Muslim Fast is simply not eating, drinking or any form of sexual discharge during the daylight hours.

(b) The Mu’min Fast is the same as (a). However, the person fasting adds the following:

Fasting the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, arms, hands, hips, legs and feet from all things haram.

(c) The Muhsin Fast. This fasting is (a) and (b) as well as doing good work. Setting a good example for others to emulate, establishing excellent morals and character, teaching others, feeding the poor, having a smile that can uplift another’s spirit.

Insha’Allah, these questions and answers bring clarity to issues that are unique to prison life. Islaam is an easy religion; humans make it difficult. May you have a blessed holy month of Ramadan.

Jonathan ‘Smiley’ Wilkerson Transitions Back To Society After More Than Three Decades

By JulianGlenn Padgett
Staff Writer

San Quentin’s Jonathan Wilkerson went from the juvenile system to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and now after more than three decades of incarceration he is paroling to a new life.

“You think through the years that you may not get out. That thought crushes you. Then it hits your soul that you are going to get out. I’m going to be free again—and then it happens,” Johnnie Wilkerson said as he sat on the bench inside San Quentin’s North Block.

When Wilkerson, also known as “Smiley,” entered Juvenile Hall, he was one very scared kid.

“Juvenile Hall was scary being a kid in prison. I didn’t know what to expect. The first place I hit was Chino, then Tracy, from Tracy I came to Old Folsom, then San Quentin,” Wilkerson said.

This was all before 1985. He stayed at each prison for a little over a year to a year and a half. However, over the years Wilkerson said he noticed he was changing.

“It took me a lot of years, and before I realized I needed to

change I went through a lot. I was a kid, and I wanted to be the big shot,” said Wilkerson. “I was holding knives, selling dope, doing things to gain attention.”

Wilkerson, 52, knows now it was the wrong kind of attention. Yet as he matured over the years, he realized he wanted to get out of prison. He saw that his behavior was not going to get him out.

“So I kicked that 17-year-old kid inside of me out, because I began to believe if I truly wanted change, I had to change in my heart first,” said Wilkerson. “So that was the beginning of my own journey of growing up and maturing. I wanted to become a man.”

A self-proclaimed B average student with no school absences, Wilkerson said he liked learning. It was after school when all hell broke loose. His advice for today’s young generation: Get away from the bad crowd and get your education.

“When you’re on the right path all you have to do is keep walking, getting your high school diploma, GED and your bachelor’s degree. Education is the right path,” he said.

Convicted in 1980, Wilkerson was sentenced to 27 years to life for first-degree murder.

During his incarceration, he said he went to the parole board 10 times and was denied 10 times.

“It should be state mandated... that San Quentin’s rehabilitation model on helping prisoners and find a way to implement San Quentin’s model statewide. Because it works”

Wilkerson described all of his parole board hearings prior to this last one as “vicious,” because when he first started attending hearings, the parole board had no intention of releasing murderers.

“This last time I went was the best board because they talked to me like I was a human being, as if they really wanted me to get out of prison. They really walked me through it.”

Wilkerson believes the taxpayers of California should know the parole board suitability process needs to be improved.

“Prisoners change, especially lifers. Constant punishment, denying lifers parole by way of a rigged board, is a waste of millions of state dollars and human potential.”

They should put people from the community on the board, he added. The board should consist of peers, like the students who come into San Quentin. They see inmates first hand, and see that they are not all just bad people.

In his 34 years of incarceration, Wilkerson said he witnessed several governors and wardens come and go in California. For him, he said, Gov. George Deukmejian was the worst because he was always taking parole dates from prisoners.

“As for wardens, I would say (First name?) Vasquez was by far the best. He walked around and talked to you. He made himself accessible. That should be paramount for every warden,” he said.

One element of prison that has not changed, Wilkerson said, is the massive number of young and old African Ameri-

can men who keep coming into prison.

“I think it’s because we’re profiled out there — always in the negative. It’s always the black man did it,” Wilkerson said. “Racism is still prevalent in the courts, the police agencies and in prison. It’s a general societal sickness. I hope it changes because as a people we could all accomplish a lot, but I haven’t seen it yet.”

Wilkerson said what makes San Quentin prison helpful is the education and self-help programs like V.O.E.G. (Victim Offenders Education Group), Overcomers and KID CAT plus others.

“What helps us the most are the volunteers. They have a positive attitude and don’t let the media outlets tell them what and how to think about prisoners.

“It should be state mandated by Gov. (Jerry) Brown,” continued Wilkerson, “that every warden in CDCR examine San Quentin’s rehabilitation model on helping prisoners and find a way to implement San Quentin’s model statewide — because it works.”

After 34 years in prison, Jonathan “Smiley” Wilkerson paroled from San Quentin Thursday, April 3, 2014.

1. Seattle, Wash. — The state Corrections Department has agreed to pay \$740,000 to the family of a state penitentiary inmate who died after his body was ravaged by flesh-eating bacteria, reports *The Seattle Times*. Ricardo Mejia, 26, died in January 2011. State records show he had complained for weeks about pain and a rash, the newspaper reported.

2. Sacramento — The private prison company GEO has been awarded a contract to house 260 female prisoners at a facility north of Bakersfield, reports the *Los Angeles Times*. The four-year contract worth \$36 million for the McFarland Community Reentry Facility will house women serving the end of their sentences.

3. Madison, Wis. — A documentary, *Dostoevsky Behind Bars*, is about Russian literature taught to state prisoners. The film is making a debut at the Wisconsin Film Festival, reports Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR). “In a small chapel on the campus of the Oakhill Correctional Institution, about 30 inmates gathered one evening in late February to watch the film that documents the class, as well as daily life at this minimum security prison,” *WPR* reported.

4. Chicago — Former U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. was reportedly punished with solitary confinement for giving legal advice to his fellow inmates, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. “An anonymous source told the Sun-Times that



Jackson spent four or five days in isolation when a guard ‘took exception’ to Jackson advising other inmates on their rights in prison,” the newspaper reported.

5. Missouri — State prisoners through the Restorative Justice Garden Program “donated a record 163 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables to local food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and schools this year, shattering last year’s record of 117 tons,” the *Columbia Daily*

Tribune reports. The top three prisons: Northeast Missouri Correctional Center in Bowling Green, more than 30 tons; Boonville Correctional Center, nearly 25 tons; Jefferson City Correctional Center, nearly 24 tons.

6. Lansing, Mich. — Legislation passed by the Michigan House and was sent to the Senate to allow the Michigan Department of Corrections to issue a “certificate of employability” to a parolee who completes a training course and doesn’t have

a significant misconduct record, reports *The Associated Press*.

7. Columbus, Ohio — Arthur Tyler, 54, was scheduled to be executed on May 28, reports *The Associated Press*. Republican Gov. John Kasich rejected his parole and possible release but granted Tyler clemency following the recommendation of mercy by the state parole board, which “cited several statements by Tyler’s co-defendant taking responsibility for the 1983 shooting.”

8. New York — The state’s highest court upheld a settlement requiring New York City to continue individualized treatment for mental health inmates after they are released from city jails, reports *The Associated Press*.

9. New York City — A New York City correction officer was arrested by the FBI and charged with violating the civil rights of Jason Echevarria, a mentally ill inmate, reports *The New York Times*. Echevarria died after begging for medical help from his cell for hours, the Times reported. The officer, Terrence Pendergrass, was supervising the Rikers Island unit where Echevarria was being held.

10. Toronto, Canada — Rubin “Hurricane” Carter, 76, the middleweight boxer whose wrongful triple-murder conviction inspired a film starring Denzel Washington and a song by Bob Dylan, died on April 20, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

11. Tennessee — Since the state resumed executions in 2000, nine Death Row inmates have died of natural causes, while six have been executed, reports *The Tennessean*. Of the 76 inmates on Death Row, 14 are 60 years or older.

12. Tennessee — Legislators passed a bill last year permitting the state to withhold all information about the drugs it plans to use in executions. Georgia, Oklahoma and Missouri have enacted similar laws withholding information about the lethal injection drugs, reports *The Tennessean*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drive to Become a Better Woman

AMINAH’S EPIPHANY:

With my freedom stripped, I awoke one morning in a cold, barren cell with the realization that I was alone in my journey. With that epiphany, I used my anger to fuel my drive in becoming a better woman.

For a while I suffered from embarrassment, hiding in prison from my community because I was ashamed of the circumstances that led to my arrest. I was disappointed in myself, for I knew that a prisoner was not how I was supposed to spend my

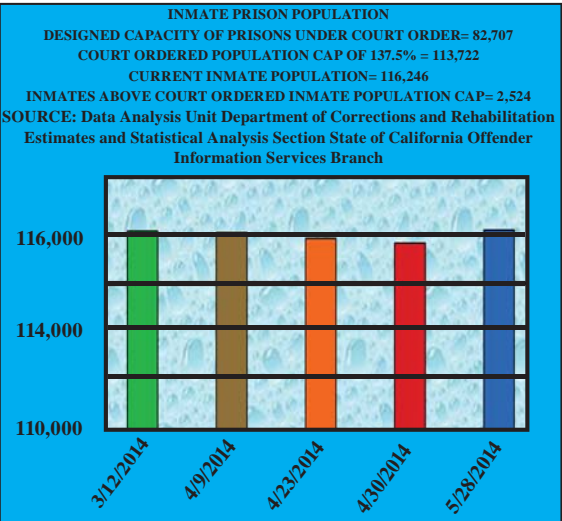
life and that I was destined for greater things, least of which entailed languishing away on a legalized plantation.

However, my sentence ensured me the time needed to piece myself back together. I’ve spent the last some-odd years attending various self-help classes as I diligently worked to rebuild my self-esteem and sense of self-worth. I ensconced myself in groups dealing with battered women, focusing on its effects, triggers and signs so as not to find myself hostage in another toxic relationship. I en-

rolled in Feather River College to achieve my associate degree in arts and humanities and entrepreneurial business certificate.

Working to get through every lonesome day, estranged from everyday that I thought I knew, days would run into years without letters or cards expressing support from not only so-called friends but family, too. It’s not easy being locked away in prison having to fight, through unyielding determination, to ensure your freedom without support, love and reassurance. For the women who are weak, they often fall victim to drugs, violence or peer pressure. However, for those few who are stronger, it fuels their determination in obtaining a better life for their children and themselves. If you believe in change, then you know everyone deserves a chance separate from the influences of the past behaviors and actions. It took years for me to learn to forgive others; however, faced with the fact that if I can’t begin to let go and forgive without judgments and resentments, how can I expect others to do the same for me?

Aminah Dorsey
Central California Women’s Facility



We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles June be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Double Header: S.Q. Warriors Top Green Team, 77-63; Greenies Then Bounce Back, Beat the Kings, 85-84

SPORTS

By Aaron “Jeddi” Taylor
Sports Writer

It has been a long time coming for the San Quentin Warriors, but they finally did it: The visiting Green Team was chopped down to size, 77-63. However, the Green Team downed the S.Q. Kings, 85-84, later in the day.

“We couldn’t get into a rhythm because of their zone,” said Green Team’s #14, Ben “The Dagger” Ilegbodu, of the first game. “We could never really get into a comfortable position all game.”

The Warriors opened the fourth quarter with a double-digit lead (16 points), something they maintained since the first quarter.

Warrior Ernest “Demolition Man” Dotson hustled with 16 points-7 for 15, 6 rebounds, one assist and four steals. Leading scorer was Anthony “Half Man, Half Amazing” Ammons with 23 points-9 for 16, 11 rebounds, two assists and two blocks.

The Warriors opened the game with a 29-18 first-quarter lead. “It doesn’t count unless we

beat Green Team. No other team is worth bragging about,” said Warrior head coach Daniel “The House” Wright.

“Tell me something nice; tell me I’ll tall and I’ll call my boys off,” Caesar “Cee Money” McDowell, aka the “Heckler” and McIntosh’s cellie, said to Bill Epling and Mark Ivy when the Warriors led by 15 in the second.

“My mother told me, ‘When you don’t have nothing nice to say,...’” responded Epling.

“I hate everything you stand for,” joked Ivy.

For most of the game, the Warriors employed a 2-3 zone that kept the middle packed tight. It forced The Green Team into a jump shot team, unable to take advantage of its height. The Green Team had 6-foot-10 Ted Hahs, and several 6-foot-6 players, including David King, Patrick Lacey and Mark Ivy.

The Warriors deployed several new offensive plays, including a basic weak-side motion to free up the low block and force defenders to run off of picks.

Dotson stepped in and stepped



Photo by Raphaelle Casales

Point guard Alias Jones takes a clutch shot

up for Montrell “Jack That Thang Up” Vines, the Warriors’ best defender. Vines got sidelined with a severely twisted ankle that will keep him out for four to six weeks. Dotson got activate against The Green Team. He had steals at the right time. However, nothing was bigger as an ego booster to the Warriors than when Dotson jumped and blocked Ilegbodu’s three-point attempt, returning it for the fast break lay-up.

“My aggressiveness came from last time, when they came in and took control. I wanted to make a statement. We worked hard and it paid off,” said Dot-

son. “It means a lot to be a felon in prison and have this opportunity. I appreciated them.”

“We couldn’t get rebounds and we had too many turnovers,” Epling said after the game. “We can’t blame the refs; none of that. Today, we got beat and beat good.”

Maurice “Optimus Prime” Hanks dropped a double-double with 16 points-6 for 17, 10 rebounds, with four steals; Allan “Dark Man X” McIntosh put up 15 points-4 for 18, and 14 boards, three assists, four steals and one block.

Leading scorer for The Green Team was David “The Waiter” King with a double-double 16 points, 13 rebounds, shooting 7 for 13, with two assists, one steal and four blocks.

In the second game, Epling brought in some fresh legs to play against the Kings, who had won the last two out of three games. When the game was at triple zero on the clock, the score was 85-84, Green Team.

Late in the fourth quarter, with only :10 on the clock, and the Kings down by three, Oris “Pep” Williams knocked down a clutch three-pointer from the left side that tied the score at 76-76. This forced the game into overtime.

Epling kept yelling “Shooter! Shooter!” every time Williams touched the ball, trying to keep his second team focused on all threats.

“Pep is a good player. I knew he was going to try to get a three off. I wasn’t surprised when he knocked it down. He’s franchise,” said Lacey, who played in both games. He finished with 31 points on 9 for 19 shooting day.

Antoine “Mad Max” Maddox tried to win the game for the Green Team with a floater, but missed with two seconds left. Williams received the inbound ball in time to attempt a winning shot but Maddox blocked it. Time ran out, driving the game into overtime.

“I never complain about an extra five minutes of basketball,” said Ben Draa.

In overtime, Williams hit another three to give his team the lead at 81-78.

“That was clutch,” said Lacey.

Maddox’s free-throw tied the game. After the Kings failed to score, Maddox dished the ball to Lacey for a post move. He made the basket and took the lead, 83-81.

Kings player Jamal “Dr. J” Green was fouled in the paint going up, but he missed both free-throws. With 44 seconds left, the Kings started fouling to stop the clock.

However, the game wasn’t over. King Tare “Cancun” Beltran pushed the ball down court and went up from three-point land. With two seconds left, the Green Team turned the ball over, giving the Kings one last shot. They failed to capitalize and the Green Team won the May 3 nail-biter.

“I had to make up for my horrible performance this morning. I couldn’t go out like that,” said Lacey after losing to the Warriors but defeating the Kings.

San Quentin Sports Updates

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

University of San Francisco’s Tennis Team beat the S.Q. Inside Tennis Team May 3 in every set. “They give us practical potential to enhance our tennis,” said Terry Slaughter, ITT.

“We came here to practice, exhibit, and clinic,” said USF assistant coach Charlie Cutter.

The Warriors used high-energy play and quick substitutions to beat Imago Dei, 71-48. McIntosh led his team with 22 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals, and a block. Ammons added 13, with 8 boards, an assist, and a steal. He was slightly out done by Imago Dei’s Steve “Big Red” Sanderson’s 14 points, 6 boards, 2 steals, and 1 block in their ongoing rivalry on April 26.

The Kings blew out the Outsiders, 72-52, on April 26. Jamal Green led the Kings with 15 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals. Williams was a point shy of a triple-double with 9 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Billy Utneher led the Outsiders with 10 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals.

In Intramural Basketball action on April 20, Net Zero beat the Franchise, 67-58, led by Erick Nelson’s 25 points and 9 boards and Michael “The Option” Franklin’s 18 points and 13 rebounds. Kenneth Dozier Sr. led Franchise with 16 points and 6 rebounds.

The defending Champion Transformers improved to 2-0, with a 71-50 decisive win over the Bad News Ballers. Oris “Pep” Williams led the Transformers with 25 points and Du-

Priest “Leap” Brown added 20. Brian “The Landlord” Asey led the Bad News Ballers with 23.

The 76ers dominated Straight Balling 77-53, led by Donte “Bad Azz” Walker’s 25 points and 8 rebounds. Johnny “Norm Nixon” Willis led Straight Balling with 19 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 1 assist.

The Richmond Project beat the S.Q. Kings & Warriors practice players April 26, 31-30; “Rich-Pro” was led by Eric Daniels with 13pts 12rbs 2ast 1stl and 3to.

In the “Meat & Potatoes” match-up (all players had to meet a minimum weight requirement of 225lbs.), the Mr. Big Stuffs beat the Big Body Benz Boys on May 3, 40-26; Mr. Big Stuffs were led by Damon “L.A.” Cook, 13pts 10rbs 3ast 5stl 1blk 2to.

The visiting baseball team Mission defeated the San Quentin A’s 11-4 on Wednesday, April 16.

The S.Q. Giants improve to 2-1 with a 6-0 win over the Cubs in five innings of baseball on April 17. Jeff Dumont pitched the shutout.

The A’s lost 10-6 to short-handed visiting Sonoma Rockies, who borrowed Raheem Thompson-Bonilla from the A’s to pitch on April 23.

The Giants defeated the visiting The REBL Giants, 5-4, on April 24.

The Giants improved to 4-1 with a 12-2 win over the Benicia Bombers hardball team. Jeff Dumont pitched another great game for the Giants. New Giants Don Spence, Richard Zorns and Mike Penalla all did well in their first game. Spence went 2-2, with two

RBIs. Penalla hit a two-run double to put the game out of reach. Zorns smashed a single into leftfield on April 26.

The S.Q. Giants beat the S.Q. A’s on May 3, 9-3. Giants were led by 2nd baseman Christopher “Cuddy Bo” Smith, the teams leading hitter.

The Diego Boys softball team staged a batting clinic for the San Quentin Hardtimers, winning 27-15 in their return in the prison on April 18.

By Jarvis “Lady Jae” Clark
Journalism Guild Writer

It was the bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded, and the San Quentin Hardtimers softball team was down two runs. Mario “Rio” Ellis belted a pitch to the outfield, scoring the winning three runs. That lifted the Hardtimers to a 20-19 victory over the visiting Diego Boys.

In the last inning with the score 19-17, DuPriest Brown hit a laser single between third and shortstop. Juan Arballo followed with a single up the middle, putting Hardtimers on first and second.

Next was John Windham. With the pressure on, he calmly turned his bat backwards, lifted the bat, swung at a sweet pitch, and hit a signal into leftfield that was caught by right fielder Sandy “Rasheed” Lockhart, who the Diego Boys borrowed. Brown and Arballo advanced to third and second.

The Diego Boys intentionally

walked Nghiep Ke Lam, loading the bases.

Then Ellis knocked in the game-winners.

“We’ve only beaten the Diego Boys once in two years,” stated a Hardtimer.

The Diego Boys got off to a good beginning with five runs in the first inning.

The Hardtimers responded. Windham hit a deep single into right field, kicking off a rally. Ke Lam followed up with a homerun that made the score, 5-4 Diego Boys.

“Ke Lam can hit!” stated Hardtimer D. Felton.

In the bottom of the third, Ellis hit a shot into right field that brought in Ke Lam. Kevin Carr followed with a homerun, giving the Hardtimers the led at 10-6.

“First time in three seasons I hit a homerun,” said Carr.

Top of the fourth, the Diego Boys rallied with homeruns by Matt Demar and James Schwedy. The score was 14-10 at the bottom of the inning.

The Hardtimers came right back. Ke Lam banged his second homerun of the game making the score 14-11. Carr got on base with a solid hit. Jordan hit a single that brought in Carr and left the score 14-13.

“Bring one in. We’re down by one!” yelled Ke Lam. However, the inning ended with the Hardtimers trailing.

Bottom of the sixth, Windham smacked a double into center field. Ke Lam followed with a hit that brought in Windham. Ellis in turn hit an RBI single, making the score 15-14 Hardtimers.

In the top of the eight, the Diego Boys went up four more runs, leaving the Hardtimers behind at 19-15 with two at-bats left.

Bottom of the eighth, Coach Dan White told the Hardtimers, “Be patient and play. Wait on the ball.”

The Hardtimers responded, leaving the score 19-17 and completing the comeback in the ninth of the May 2 game.

Visiting Oaks Hold On To Edge the A's, 11-9

**By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor**

Down two runs in the bottom of the ninth, the San Quentin A's comeback stopped short and the visiting Oaks baseball team won, 11-9.

The A's last chance at bat started well when Royce Rose nailed a fastball with one out. It landed right before a far out-field fence, then bounced over, making it a ground rule double. However, he was left stranded after Hunt struck out and a shallow grounder by Bilal Coleman led to a tag out, ending the A's comeback attempt.

"More practice, minus the errors, we win," said John Windham, who had a single, double and triple.

"Our defense wasn't good, but we had good pitching and

timely hitting," said Oak Seena Nassiri about the Oaks' win.

The A's were up 8-5 at the top of the sixth, with Ruben Harper on the mound. The Oaks loaded the bases with one out. A shallow fielder's choice brought in one run. The next Oak was unintentionally walked.

Nassiri then belted a two RBI single. After Oak Rolfe Winkler was walked, Reggie Hunt replaced Harper at the mound with the score tied at 8-8.

Hunt gave up two runs, one on a bad pitch in the dirt and another on a walk with the bases loaded. A routine popup catch ended the inning, leaving the score 10-8 Oaks.

Winkler ended up going 2-2 with two RBIs, a walk, a hit by pitch and two runs scored.

The A's Windham turned a

single into a run by stealing first, then second, then home plate in consecutive plays, making the score 10-9.

In the top of the seventh and final inning, the Oak's Mr. "No Comment" hit a single that brought in one run, making the score 11-9.

Oak Mike Ostler had a chance to take second base but was tagged out because he wouldn't slide. "My pants got pretty dirty last week. I can't wash them every week," he joked about not sliding.

It was the first time playing in San Quentin for most of the Oaks.

"It an honor to be here. I love it but I like being able to leave, too," said Adam Dietz.

"It's cool. It makes you appreciate stuff," added Nate Overlid.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

First base Nate Overlid holding the A's Bilal Coleman at first

Eddie Herena Breaks 6-Mile Record With 37:56 Time

**By Aaron "Jeddi" Taylor
Sports Writer**

Aided by a cool breeze, Eddie Herena broke a 1000 Mile Club six-mile record with a time of 37:56, shattering the previous record of 38:40 held by Miguel Quezada.

"It felt great. I definitely put the work in and hard work pays off," said Herena.

Abdul Khadeer Morceli finished second in the May 9 event with a time of 39:20; Bernard Ballard was third at 41:09.

Edward Scott finished with a time of 58:08 despite medical problems. He left the doctor's office the day before, where he learned he'd have to go to an outside specialist for his various ailments.

"The doctor said I can continue my regular routine, so I'm not running for time. I'm just running," said Scott.

"I'm not out here to race six miles. I'm out here to show what a 313-pound man can do. I'm looking to complete the run," said Marlon Beason, who finished in 1:00:54.

"I'm going for a lifetime achievement award!" enthused



Photo by Sam Hearns

Eddie Herena

Gerry Gearin, a 1000 Mile Club veteran, with arms raised. He posted a time of 48:32.

Volunteers, timekeepers and sponsors encouraged the runners as they came by the starting line, passing out cups of water.

Jill Friedman stated, "They may not even want any water. It's only six miles."

Herena completed the first lap in 1:30, setting a pace for

the entire run. Morceli, with Carlos Ramirez, followed him.

In lap 15, Malcolm Jones stepped off the track with a tender hammy. "I'm going back in; I just need to pause to let it relax some," Jones said while massaging his hamstring.

Herena, with two laps left, had a time of 35:06.

"He's looking to break Miguel's (Quezada) record," said Ralph Ligons.

"Let's go, Eddie!" the crowd was the yelling, urging him forward.

Herena's final lap time was 1:25.

Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick commented about Herena breaking the record.

"What it means is that we have several programs that benefits inmates; he broke a record, and the hard work that it takes to train to do that are all life skills that a person can take with them when they leave prison. The fact that we have these running programs, and a record being broken, is a testament to that," Emrick said.

Clifford Williams, 53, finished with a final time of

Results From the Six-Mile Run:

Eddie Herena	37:56
Abdul Khadeer Morceli	39:20
Bernard "Abdul Raheem" Ballard	41:09
Carlos Ramirez 4	3:35
Larry Ford	43:35
Glen Mason	45:14
Abel Armengol	45:36
Jose Sandoval	45:41
Bill Sullivan	45:47
Gerry Gearin	48:32
Clifton Williams	49:56
RaHsaan Thomas	54:21
Eric Moody	54:38
Andrew Gazzeny	57:26
Eddie DeWeaver	57:51
Edward Scott	58:08
Malcolm Jones	59:23
Marlon Beason	1:00:54
Leroy Lucas	1:08:11
David Samuel	53:40 4.5

Sponsors: Frank Ruona, Diana Fitzpatrick, Kevin Rumon, and Jill Friedman.

49:56, and commented, "Aw, it wasn't anything, a piece of cake – something I do all the time. I've been running all my life; since I was walking, I was running."

Herena said breaking the record "wasn't easy. It was tough. (Ligons) was congratulating me that last lap. He's my

coach. He shares in the record. He made a difference in the last lap."

"Feels like I got one more year of bragging rights. Not that I'm going to brag, but if I choose to, I can," Eddie said with a huge smile on his face, still breathing hard, cooling down.

Reigning Champs Defend Tournament Titles

Reigning champions won most of San Quentin's latest chess, pinochle, horseshoes, Ironman, handball, pingpong and tennis tournaments.

Vincent "Osiris" Mackey successfully defended his chess title. He said he has been the chess champion for three years straight. "I've been waiting for somebody to come along who can consistently beat me more than I beat them," said Mackey.

He learned how to play chess by watching his bunkie play. Mackey credits his success to adoptability – seeing his opponents' style and adopting a strategy to defeat it.

Mackey said he loves chess because "it's a pure game. Cards have a luck factor involved because it depends on

the cards you get. Chess is mind against mind; no luck involved."

He added, "It takes my mind off the horror of being in prison. It keeps my mind sharp. It keeps me thinking strategically. Wars are waged in part on how chess pieces move," he added.

San Quentin has "many good chess players who don't play in tournaments. I wish they would," commented Mackey.

Isaiah Daniels teamed up with Elias Solis and won the horseshoe competition. Daniels has won the horseshoe doubles for three years running, even with different partners.

"I've won every double and all but one single contest. I love horseshoes, but don't feel I have the competitions I need

or want," said Daniels. "It feels good being a champion."

The Ironman Tournament was modified to include additional challenges, but was still won by defending champion Dean Soriano. He pushed a weighted wheelbarrow up a hill, did 20 pull-ups, 50 push-ups, 50 squats, carried a punching bag around baseball bases, pushed the wheelbarrow again and ran a lap in seven minutes, 8 seconds. Darrell Flowers came in second with a time of 7:40.

Osborn Walton won pingpong again, retaining his title.

Pinochle champions Jeffrick Brown and Johnson successfully defended their title. Tyrone Allen and Lamore Jones came in second.

Terrance Banks and B. Chattman won handball doubles

and the championship; former champs Michael Thompson and Bozzie Burton came in second.

Mcdowell and Wiley won the dominos title; Paneda and Sanchez took second.

The second annual Don De Nevi Memorial Day Tennis Tournament was full of upsets.

Paul Oliver upset previous tournament winner Rick Hunt, 12-8, 9-12, 12-9, securing his position in the round of eight.

Oliver defeated Tim Thompson and Al Lee, placing himself in the championship round. Paul Alleyne defeated Clay Long in straight sets, 12-6, 12-6.

Nighiep Ke Lam dusted off his tennis gear and eliminated Rico Winfrey in straight sets, 12-8, 12-3.

Ke Lam faced past champi-

on Alleyne in his quarterfinal match, coming back after losing the first set. Ke Lam battled with groundstrokes, overpowering Alleyne, 4-10, 10-3, 10-8.

Oliver and Ke Lam faced one another in the finals. Ke Lam won the first set 10-8; however Oliver stuck to his game plan. Oliver used big serves and net play to pressure Lam. Oliver went on to win the next two sets and take the championship, 10-6, 10-4.

Several Inside Tennis Team members expressed gratitude to coach Don DeNevi for his support of the net program.

The tournaments were held on Memorial Day weekend.

–By Rahsaan Thomas, Michael Panella contributed to this story

DELIVERING MESSAGES ABOUT FATHERHOOD

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

June has interesting celebrations: National Candy Month, Potty Training Awareness Month and National Safety Month, according to the World Almanac.

June is also Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month. Pentecost Sunday is on June 8, Flag Day is on June 14 and the first day of summer begins on June 21. Ramadan will most likely begin on June 28.

Father's Day is always the third Sunday of June.



Valeray Richardson

Asked on the Line conducted brief informal interviews with men on the mainline, asking: "Are you a father? How many children do you have? Did you grow up with a dad or father figure? If not, who were your male role models? Send a message to your dad or father figure."

JulianGlenn Padgett said he has no children, adding his biological father did not raise him. However, there were two men in his life who he looked up to: Jim Lee and John Speth.

"Jim Lee was a single father," said Padgett. "He always made time for his sons Jim, Jeff and James. He treated me like family. He even taught me how to water-ski. Thank you, Jim."

Asked On The Line

"John Speth of Fair Oaks, California, was a good family man," said Padgett. "He took care of his family. He was someone I would want to emulate when it came to taking care of family. He really made an impression on me. He was a good provider, listener and husband. He was a good partner to his wife. He was there for his children. Thank you John for showing me what my father never did."

Jesus Flores has two daughters. "The oldest is shy and quiet. The youngest is bold and loud. They are both complete opposites. They've graduated from high school and are married now. I am very proud of them," said Flores.

"I grew up with a dad," said Flores. "He was in the Army. So, he was very strict but, he always wanted what was best for all of his kids. He was a hard worker. I love you dad. Thank you for being there for all of us."

Aaron Brock has one child. His most memorable moment was when his child was seven years old. It was during a visit in Lancaster. If he could send his child a message it would be: "I am sorry," he said.

Brock's father is deceased. But, what he admired most about his dad was "being there," he said.

Brian Asey has a son and a daughter.

His most memorable moments with his children are when they were very young, when his son was 6 and his daughter was 5. "We used to play together. Each one would hang on to one of my legs as I walked. It was funny."

Asey's father passed away. But, he still remembers when he was a boy, "my dad would take me to work with him," he said. Asey also had a stepfather. "I remember that my stepdad instilled in us to not tell on each



Joey Mason

other. No snitching. If I told on my brother, he would punish my brother, but then he would punish me for telling on my brother," said Asey.

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez has no children. However, he said he grew up with his father. "I remember going on a lot of family trips with him," said Ramirez. "Thanks dad for all of the advice that you gave me over the years."

Aaron "The Jeddii" Taylor has no biological children. "I have two nieces, two nephews and a godson. Those are my kids. To all my children: Knowledge and wisdom are in storehouses. The key to open a storehouse is a question. Never fear asking a question," said Taylor.

Taylor did not grow up with his biological father. "My grandfather, L.B. Turner, was my No. 1 one role model. He was not my biological grandfather, but he was everything I could possibly want in a father figure." Steve Wade Sr., Myles Delaney – Taylor's uncles – William Fant Jr. and George Jernigan played significant roles as father figures, as well.

Timothy Thompson has no children. He said his football

coach served as a father figure. "What I admired most about him was that he never got upset when I made a mistake. He was always patient with the kids. You were a good man, coach. You had a positive impact on my life," said Thompson.

Valeray Richardson has a daughter and a stepdaughter. Richardson is proud of his daughter Raenisha "because of her lifestyle. She studied nursing, finished school and got married. She is very respectful and did not get into trouble. She reminds me a lot of me because we are both Gemini. She's a little me," said Richardson. "My daughter Monique is into sports. She got a scholarship to attend Smith University. I am proud of her. Her catch phrase is, 'calm yourself.' I love her very much."

Richardson's father passed away, but his memories of him are very much alive. "I admired his humor and the way he showed loved for all of us. Dad, you're my hero," he said.

Joey Mason has no children. He said he did not grow up with a father or father figure. "I had two stepdads. One was an alcoholic and the other was a redneck," he said.

Mason said believes he would be a good father, if he decides to have children. "I would be the opposite of everything my stepdads were to me, no drugs and no violence. I would be involved in my kids' life. They would know that I got their back. I will always help them. I will do as much as possible to expose him to positive things and show them support, kindness and love," said Mason.

Richard Morris has a son. He said he's proud of his son because "he finished his education and is a physical therapist. He also has a good work ethic."

Morris grew up with a father. "He was married to my mother

for over 40 years. He was a very hard worker. Dad, I am sorry for the mistakes that I made. I wish I could have been a better son."

Manuel Sanchez Murillo has two children, a son and a daughter. Even though he has been imprisoned for almost 28 years, he said his kids are not resentful of him not raising them. "They had the support of their grandparents, their mother and a stepfather. I am very proud of them. They finished school and I don't think they are ashamed of me."

Murillo did grow up with his father. "What I admired most about my dad was his honesty," said Murillo. "He did what he could to take care of us. He passed away, but he is still my role model. I admire him very much to this day."

Ed Ballenger has two sons. "I have not seen them in over 20 years," said Ballenger. "But through my niece, I know that they are OK and both are working."

Ballenger's father raised him. "He was there for me. For one thing, he provided well for his family. He was a balanced individual. He gave good advice. I love you dad." Ballenger's father passed away at age 90.



Ed Ballenger

Father's Day Appreciation From the Inside

Si volviera a nacer quisiera que Santiago Gómez fuera mi padre de nuevo otra vez para seguir su ejemplo. Aunque ya no lo tengo conmigo, estoy orgulloso de que él fue mi papá. En donde quiera que Dios lo tenga, por siempre gracias



Jesus Sanches

padre por la crianza que me diste, **Vicente Gómez.**

Maximino Sánchez, te mando estas felicitaciones por ser el día del padre. Me siento muy orgulloso de usted y si Dios me diera la oportunidad de volver a nacer quisiera que usted fuera mi padre otra vez. Gracias por la crianza que me dio. Dios me lo bendiga en este día tan especial, su hijo **Jesús Sánchez.**

Ignacio Pureco, de tu hijo, Gustavo Pureco, que mucho te extraña, espero que te la pases bien el día de los padres.

Salvador Lozano, que en este día del padre te la pases bien en compañía de la familia. Tu hijo que te quiere y extraña mucho, **Arturo Lozano.**

Manuel, le deseo un feliz día de los padres y que siempre reine la felicidad en ti. Tu hijo que te quiere, **Eduardo**

González.

Marciano Ortega, gracias por todo tu esfuerzo y trabajo. Gracias por corregirme cuando lo he necesitado. Feliz día de los padres, tu hijo **José Ortega.**

Jefe, gracias por haberme dado la vida y ser el mejor padre del mundo. Perdóneme por haberle fallado. Espero algún día volver a recuperar su confianza. Lo quiero de madre. Feliz día del Padre, su hijo **Fortunato López.**

Happy father's day. Thank



Mike Nelson

you for all your sacrifices you made for me. Love you dad, your son **Binh Vo.**

Dad, thanks for been there for me. I wish you the best on this father's day. With much love your son, **Vi Cham.**

Father's Day is not limited to the biological sense of the meaning behind the term "father." On this day, I celebrate my great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, and mother...who all stepped into the role of my father when my father wasn't able to, **Michael Nelson.**

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2014 NO.7

July 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,909

San Quentin Celebrates Its 2014 Graduation



Photo by Curtis Carroll

Bobby Warne, Samantha, Andrew "Drew" and Andrea Sabatino with Bonnie Butterworth

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The 2014 graduating class at San Quentin State Prison included

more than a dozen inmates receiving associate degrees in social and behavioral science, humanities, American studies, business and liberal arts. In ad-

dition, Robert Tyler earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration.

"It's so important, the support we receive from family

and prison administrators," said Tyler, who has been taking college classes for the past 20 years. Quoting Calvin Coolidge, Tyler stressed, "Nothing in the world

can take the place of persistence."

The two-day ceremony also

See 2014 Grad. on Page 10



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Juliet Moun, Lila Xiong, Nou "Thao" Phang, Kenny and Mee Xiong

Marin County District Attorney Given Insight to Life Behind Bars

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Marin County District Attorney Edward Berberian and two

staffers, Deputy District Attorney Leon Vousharian and Assistant District Attorney Yvette Martinez-Shaw, were guests at the fifth *San Quentin News* Fo-

rum held on Friday, May 29.

A principal object of the forums is to provide all parties in the criminal justice system a first-hand opportunity to examine the issues of crime, policing, prosecution, prison, re-entry and changing lives.

Arranged in a group format, the forums are held like roundtable discussions with participants sitting in a circle. Berberian, Martinez-Shaw and Vousharian sat among the 21 long-term prisoners and volunteer advisers.

Law enforcement personnel who have participated in the forums have said the forums are valuable as a resource for first-hand information regarding the entire criminal justice system.

See *Marin Dist.* on Page 4

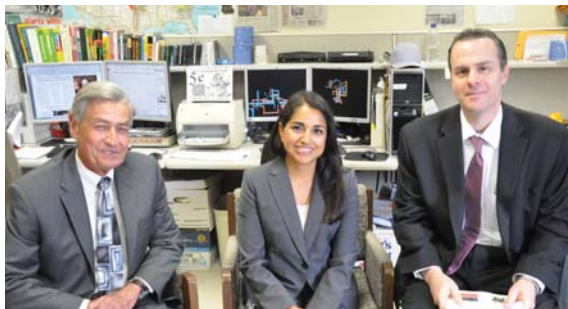


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Edward Beberian, Yvette Martinez-Shaw and Leon Vousharian inside the SQ. Newsroom

S.F. 49ers Football Players Tour San Quentin

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

"The day is about perspectives and choices," said San Francisco 49ers Chaplain Earl Smith to 19 rookie football players. "Choices that can lead one to prison or a National Football League career," he added, at the start of a tour of San Quentin on June 14.

"It was mandatory, coming on this tour," said rookie linebacker Aaron Lynch.

The San Quentin trip was part of an effort to encour-

See *S.F. 49ers* on Page 15



Photo By Sam Hearnes

In the back: Fouimalo Fonoti, C.J. Spillman and Carlos Hyde Inside a North Block prison cell



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Top: Raquel, Gerald, Gerald IV, Bottom: Tatiana and Aviana Rose Salas

S.Q. Get On The Bus Event

Children traveled from as far away as San Diego to get hugs and kisses from their dads in celebration of Father's Day June 6 in San Quentin's visiting room.

"It is very important to have children connect with their parents to show them that they are loved," said Amalin Molina, executive director for Center for Restorative Justice Works in Los Angeles.

Molina is a coordinator for Get On The Bus (GOTB), a non-profit organization that brings children to incarcerated parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Molina said her connection to the program is personal. She said she overstayed her visa in 1998. Immigration Customs Enforcement arrested her with her husband and sent them to a detention camp in Long Beach. It took 16 months for them to be

granted asylum.

During their detention, their three children were in school. "It was a huge struggle without a mother and father in the house. It was difficult being separated from my children, knowing that there was no adult to watch them," she said. "The fact that the authorities did not find them was a good thing, because my kids were able to visit us while we were detained. They showed us that they are responsible. It was by the grace of God that they made it."

"Research shows that when children are connected with fathers, they do better in school," said Karen Vandelaat, a GOTB coordinator. "We believe children have a right to see their fathers."

"It's good to see the families

See *Get On The* on Page 20

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, PL Brown, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula*, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, Simone Gabrielle Crowe, Colorado CURE, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Daniel Elber, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Braden Weeks Earp, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Amy Friedman, Michael Furst, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Judith Goldman, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Jun Hamamoto*, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngrad, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Monica Johnson, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Anthony Kenrick*, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Toni Landis, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Mary McAndrew, Andrew McKay, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Melanie Nasson-Kurgpold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Pat Palmer, J.S. Perrella*, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Maria Rivero, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarsone, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Carla White, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Forrest Woolman, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

***Have made more than one donation**

Instructor Help Inmates Rebuild Their Lives from the Ground Up

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A new vocational trade at San Quentin teaches inmates how to build homes from the ground up.

The building maintenance program has been in operation for about a year. Instruc-

the men can use to secure employment once they parole.

Darell Flowers, formerly a long-haul truck driver, said, "I tried for a long time to get into the class." He is looking forward to having a new trade when he gets out.

"It's a new, exciting experience because I am learning how to

Robinson, who is serving a life sentence, is the architect and engineer of a structure that he had to learn to build to scale.

"It's tedious work, but it teaches you how to build a house. I didn't know anything about this before I started," Robinson said. "It shows me how to make an honest living. I have a skill now that I can take with me."

Robinson said he enjoys working and receiving instruction from Callegari. "Dante, he's a master at this. If he doesn't know something, he'll find out. I've yet to ask a question he doesn't know."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Building Maintenance Vocational Instructor Dante Callegari

tor Dante Callegari spent a few months getting the shop ready for students.

"This building was storage for clothing when I got here," said Callegari. "It used to be a greenhouse for landscaping. This program is brand-new at San Quentin. I had to get it ready."

Chris Deragon changed jobs from carpentry maintenance in the kitchen to working in the tool room for building maintenance. He said that as their first assignment, he and Charlie Spence were hired to clean up the shop.

"In my entire 16 years in prison, I've never met an instructor who has more passion to teach inmates to be better," Deragon said. "He's inspired me to do better. He has patience with each student and finds a way to guide them in a positive direction."

Spence, who became the shop clerk, said he and Deragon worked hard to rebuild the classroom and Callegari goes out of his way to make sure everyone understands what needs to be done. "When I parole, I will use this trade to get through law school," Spence said.

Starting from ground zero, Callegari teaches the students what it takes to build structures. He begins with proper safety procedures. The orientation includes completing an Injury Illness Prevention Plan.

"State law says you have the right to know anything that can harm you here," said Callegari.

Several members of the class have some previous construction experience. However, this class provides certification in construction technology, which

build a real house from scratch," said Tare Beltranchuc.

"I want to learn as much as possible about construction because this is useful in everyday life," added Marco Villa.

TEAMWORK

Teams of four are selected. Inmates are expected to work in cooperation. "They get one chance to opt out of the team for another, but no one has done it yet," said Callegari. "On the street you have to learn to work with different personalities."

Callegari said the course takes about a year and a half to complete 850 hours of bookwork and 850 hours of performance.

"I don't see how anyone could get it done quicker than that," said Callegari. "Somewhere else this program could take a longer time. I've worked at prisons at different levels. I like the inmate mentality here."

THE SAN QUENTIN ATMOSPHERE

Callegari said San Quentin is a different kind of prison because of limited lockdowns, so "everyone is on a constant flow of training. I couldn't teach this program at High Desert (State Prison)."

"I like coming down here teaching," said Callegari. "I like the lifers' mentality. They're dedicated and focused." He said lifers have done it all. They want to move to the next level. "The games are done. They're here to learn."

Callegari has been employed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for 28 years. He started working construction in high school. He received formal construction training in junior college while in an apprentice program, as well as OSHA training. He has previously taught at California State Prison-Solano and the California Correctional Center, where he also worked in maintenance and plant operations. He has worked in facility management construction at Folsom State Prison. Callegari has two separate teaching credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for auto body and the construction trade.

TESTING

The students' study material covers pouring concrete, introduction to masonry, installation techniques, floor systems and foundations.

By the end of the course Callegari says inmates will learn the construction of walls, roofing, ceilings, framing, roof framing, exterior finishing, stair layouts, electrical systems, introduction to HVAC, drain waste, pipe fitting and plumbing.

"We cover everything in a construction technology trade," said Callegari.

Every student is required to pass the Craft Core Curriculum test.

"The course is very challenging for them," said Callegari. "They have to demonstrate to me that they *understand* a chapter to move on."

Students are also required to pass tests based on the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Introductory to Craft Skills and Construction Technology.

INMATES LEARN TO READ BLUEPRINTS

Callegari said California building code books are used to teach the course.

The building maintenance shop displays scaled-down versions of homes designed by inmates.

"Everyone working here will have a firm basis for building a house," said Damien Coleman.

Anthony Passer is building a scale model of the house he and his family lived in for many years. Complete with a concrete



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Miniature size wooden model house

Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Graduate School of Journalism

BEHIND THE SCENES
The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

Government Makes Progress Finding Jobs for Ex-Offenders Upon Release

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Steps are being taken by a number of government entities to assist ex-offenders find employment once they are released from prison.

“One of the first requirements for an offender who is released from prison is to obtain a job,” according to a 2011 report by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

“The ability of returned offenders to find meaningful em-

ployment is directly related to their normal functioning in the community,” a Connecticut law states.

The National Employment Law Project estimates one in four U.S. adults have a criminal record.

The NCSL report included information on support programs such as the Federal Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA), which provides grants to states, local governments and community-based organizations to establish innovative and evidence-

based reentry programs. The programs include vocational training and employment assistance.

Reentry programs address education, family skills and healthy living, and offer substance abuse treatment, employment resources, mentorship and housing assistance.

California is one of several states that offer tax credits to private employers that hire ex-offenders. Additionally, the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit is available nationwide to private businesses that hire ex-offenders and other target groups of people who consistently face employment barriers.

States also regulate how a criminal record is used during the application process. In

1998, Hawaii adopted the first “Ban the Box” law in the country. Since then, similar laws in four other states and the District of Columbia limit the use of certain criminal records during the hiring process.

that encourage employment opportunities for eligible applicants.

A 2010 study by the Pew Center on the States reports those who have served time in prison can expect to earn about 40 percent less in annual wages, compared to people in similar circumstances who have not spent time in prison.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel however, as the NCLS concluded in its report, “To improve employment prospects for ex-offenders, states have adopted policies to encourage their employment, address employer liability, and hiring incentives, expanded eligibility for record-clearing policies, and supported employment training and reentry programs.”

“One of the first requirements for an offender who is released from prison is to obtain a job”

California Department of Corrections Searches For 7,000 Future Officers

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is looking to hire 7,000 people in the next couple of years.

Lt. Chad Hester told *KCRA-TV* that qualified applicants are needed because of inmate overcrowding and 1,800 corrections officers retiring a year at the 34 prisons. Hester said the physical agility test disqualifies candidates as do the written test and background checks.

Only 2 to 5 percent of appli-

cants actually become officers, Hester said.

Recruits have to run about a half-mile while carrying 45 pounds of weight in both hands in less than five minutes and five seconds. They must be honest when filling out their application, as lying is a sure way to be disqualified.

In an interview Oct. 12, applicant Kamyra Fauntleroy told *KCRA* she dreams of wearing a badge and having a good career in the prison system.

All applicants will have to wait nine months to see if they qualify to become a cadet.

Valley State Prison Offers New Merit-Based Incentive Program

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Valley State Prison offers the only merit-based incentive program fully implemented for inmates who want to be positive programmers in the California prison system.

As part of the new program, inmates will have a number of recreational and enhanced privileges available to them, based on behavior and willingness to meet its expectations, said Greg Bergersen, public information officer for Valley State Prison.

Early this year, the program was set up in the general population-level and sensitive needs facilities and certain yards at the Level II, low to medium security prison. The program has been partially implemented at other state prisons.

“We’re increasing positive programming for inmates who want to...and participate in an enhanced programming facility,” Bergersen said.

Incentives include access to technology-based privileges as they are approved, an expanded inmates’ canteen list and a yard photo program.

The department is reviewing a plan for inmates to purchase an MP3 player and eventually tablet.

“They can’t have any Internet capability,” Bergersen told the *Merced Sun-Star*.

Inmates have access to mi-

crowave ovens in each housing unit, food sales, sports, game tournaments, self-help sponsored events, concerts and guest speakers, Bergersen told the *Sun-Star*.

“Eventually our entire prison will be nothing but positive programming, school-oriented, work-oriented, rehabilitative-oriented inmates,” he added.

Inmates not taking advantage of these plans will be eventually transferred.

Those inmates in a security-housing unit and those who violate prison rules during the last 12 months are not eligible to participate in the program. Valley State Prison had 113 problem incidents in 2013, the least reported in the prison system.

“That number will go down. We know we have guys that aren’t going to participate ... and we know that other prisons have inmates who want to participate that don’t have (the program). So through attrition we’re going to end up having a whole prison full of guys who want a program,” he said.

Bergersen reminded the *Merced Sun-Star*, “We are not here to punish the inmate; that’s what their loss of freedom does. We punish when they break rules within the facility. If we can turn inmates who have been involved in negative behavior ... and put them in a positive environment to do that, they will be more successful upon parole.”

CDCR LANZA NUEVOS SERVICIOS DE REHABILITACIÓN PARA RECLUSOS DE LARGO PLAZO

By CDCR

El Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) esta lanzando un programa piloto ofreciendo servicios rehabilitativos dirigidos a reclusos purgando largas sentencias.

El Long-Term Offender Pilot Program (LTOPP)—Programa Piloto para Reclusos de Largo Plazo— provee programación perceptible durante la encarcelación y servicios al obtener la libertad para permitirle a reclusos una transición más fácil de regreso a la sociedad.

“Debido a la duración del encarcelamiento, los reclusos de largo plazo a menudo no están preparados para los considerables cambios en la tecnología y el vivir del día-a-día que han ocurrido desde que ellos fueron encarcelados,” dijo Millicent Tidwell, Directora De la División de Programas Rehabilitativos del CDCR. “Darle a estos reclusos las herramientas que ellos necesitan para ser exitosos en su propia rehabilitación ambas dentro y fuera de prisión es imprescindible.”

Además, el CDCR esta cre-

ando Instalaciones de Reentrada para Reclusos de Largo Plazo que les ayudara durante su transición de regreso a la sociedad, incluyendo vivienda, empleo y servicios basados en la comunidad. Locaciones para estas instalaciones de reentrada aun están siendo determinadas.

El programa piloto estará en efecto por 24 meses, durante lo cual la División de Programas Rehabilitativos del CDCR monitoreara la implementación al igual que la efectividad del programa. Si se comprueba ser una herramienta rehabilitativa exitosa, el programa entonces pasara al proceso del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos para convertirse en póliza formal.

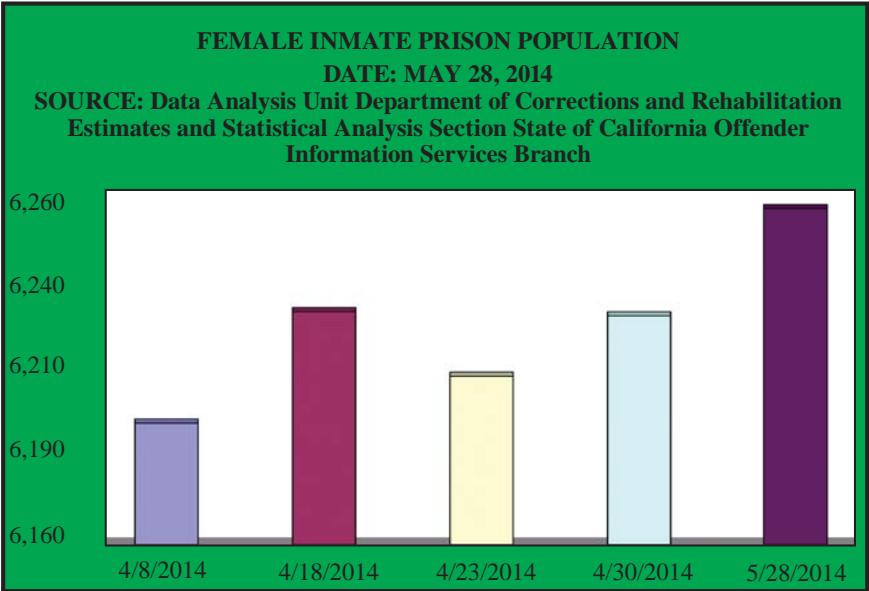
El LTOPP esta siendo implementado de acorde con el Plan del CDCR del 2012 en el cual al departamento le fue dada la tarea de incrementar el porcentaje de reclusos beneficiados en los programas rehabilitativos previo a su liberación al 70 por ciento del objetivo poblacional.

–Traduccion Jorge Heredia

El programa tiene la finalidad de servirle a reclusos quienes han sido identificados con tener moderado a alto riesgo de comportamiento criminal y están purgando sentencias indeterminadas con la posibilidad de libertad condicional. El LTOPP es un programa voluntario, el cual incluirá tratamiento perceptible para:

- *Abuso de sustancias
- *Pensamiento criminal
- *Impacto a victimas
- *Problemas con el control del enojo
- *Mejora de las relaciones familiares

El LTOPP inicialmente será implementado en las siguientes instituciones: California State Prison, Solano en Vacaville; Central California Women’s Facility en Chowchilla; y California Men’s Colony en San Luis Obispo. Reclusos quienes estén purgando sentencias indeterminadas en instituciones que no ofrecen este programa piloto les puede ser permitido temporalmente transferirse a una locacion piloto para poder participar en el LTOPP.



Having The Right Attitude Can Get You Out Of Prison

'If you don't have your program tight here, it won't be tight out there'

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

How do you get out of prison? Doug Butler, one-time police officer and former San Quentin inmate, returned to San Quentin as a free man to say that the right attitude is the way to get out.

AIR (Accountability, Integrity and Responsibility) embodies the right attitude, according to Butler. He described his own practice of accountability, for example, keeping the District Attorney of the office that sent him to prison informed of what he was doing while in prison. He

advised the men in blue to do the same. He talked about taking responsibility for the direction of one's life by getting an education. To build integrity, he said, "Be humble and respect all people."

"There's no place like San Quentin, which is a Mecca of programs," said Butler. "If you don't have your program tight here, it won't be tight out there."

"Out there," in free society, Butler is the director of Men of Valor Academy. Governor Jerry Brown recommends Butler's program, and former governors Gray Davis and Arnold

Schwarzenegger have made financial contributions to Men of Valor. His organization provides parolees with housing, transportation and classes that teach life skills.

Lee Jarvis asked about the first three things a parolee should do upon release.

"Stay away from bad conduct," Butler said. "Get your ID and Social Security card and be patient."

Butler said that with fortitude, perseverance and resilience, a prisoner can put their mistakes behind them and move on. "Focus on you," said Butler.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Arnulfo Garcia and Doug Butler at the central plaza

Marin District Attorney Attend San Quentin News Forum

Continued from Page 1

Berberian and his co-workers represent a new era of criminal justice professionals. Because of their interest in the process from initial custody to reentry, all three prosecutors wanted to know about the many programs available at San Quentin.

Berberian and his staff asked about the goals of each program and how it worked to achieve its purpose. It was clear that everyone thought San Quentin stands out for its progressive approach.

Arnulfo Garcia said, "Mass incarceration is not the solution as was previously thought." With reentry and realignment considerations, many challenges now complicate the criminal justice system.

Overcoming those challenges takes on new importance, said the DA. One part of the solution is the education and vocational training experiences available at San Quentin. Overcoming new challenges also involves learning from the inmates, he told the group.

The DA has been to San Quentin previously about prosecution business, not about learning. Berberian said it was "refreshing" to speak with prisoners who hold themselves accountable. The longtime prosecutor said this experience would give him a better perspective when men come before his office for release.

Berberian indicated it was a new experience for him. He said, "This is the first time I have been in a room with so many inmates."

Forum moderator, Julian-Glenn "Luke" Padgett directed attention from one man to another as the men told the prosecutors about their crimes and how they came to acknowledge responsibility for them. Vousharian said he was impressed with the accounts.

The DA's staff spoke freely about their role in the prosecution process, and the men talked about their crimes and experiences with the system. Every man had a unique story. One of the most important aspects of the path each prisoner takes is the initial custody experience. Moreover, that was an important piece of the puzzle Berberian and his staff wanted to examine.

"How did it feel when you were first taken into custody?" asked Berberian. Inmate after inmate told his impression of first being in custody. As inmate Michael Nelson expressed, "I haven't thought a lot about incarceration, but I have thought a lot about my crime." According to Nelson's accounting of that time, "One of the hardest things I have ever had to do is call my aunt and tell her I committed a murder."

Talking about the initial custody experience, Nelson said when he was arrested, "It was all very raw." He was arrested four hours after committing murder, he said adding, "I didn't know how to deal with it." Taken to Juvenile Hall, Nelson stayed there for a while, was then transferred to the Youth Authority and then to state prison. Because he was only 15 when he committed his crime, he didn't know "about hating someone because of their race." He said those are all things he learned in prison.

According to Berberian, "In the past, the job of district attorney was separate and apart from prison and reentry." However, he said, he needed to know all aspects of prosecution, incarceration and reentry so that he could do his job better.

Berberian explained it was his job to represent the public, so being an advocate for inmates is not in his job description. On the other hand, he explained he needed to "know what tools are available" so he can do his job the best he can.

Berberian said he was not a supporter of relaxing the Three Strikes Laws. "I want to have all the tools I can have," he explained. Experiences of inmates from initial custody to final release were all important to the prosecutors.

Troy Williams said, "Being taken into custody is no joke." He said the initial custody experience affects your entire experience of being incarcerated. Williams had a "real bad attitude" when he was first taken into custody and convicted. In addition, Williams affirmed the prosecutor's belief that San Quentin is unique in the number of rehabilitation and self-help programs available.

Williams said when they asked him where he wanted to go, "I told them to get the (expletive) out of the way!" Berberian said, "I'm getting the sense that the jail experience is worse than the prison experience." On the other hand, Williams said that coming from other prisons to San

Quentin was like night and day. He said, "I woke up with a whole new attitude."

The many programs at San Quentin was one of the major topics of discussion. Berberian asked if the programs had an effect on Williams' attitude, to which Williams answered, "Before San Quentin, I didn't have the tools to change." According to Williams, that was his "aahh" moment.

Those programs are near the other end of the incarceration, or reentry. They were very much of interest to the prosecutors. As Williams said, "The day I came to San Quentin gave me a whole new life." Talking about the many programs here at The Q, Berberian said, "It's important for me to have information about the programs so I know what's available."

Berberian said he was keen to learn about the San Quentin experience with its 70 plus educational, vocational, self-help and health programs available to inmates.

Some men related to a vast contrast between the beginning and end of incarceration. The beginning is a "shock," said Kris Himmelberger.

"Jail, that's the worst," said

Himmelberger. Speaking of those first days, Himmelberger said, "I couldn't believe it." He indicated he wanted to stay at the county jail after conviction to fight his case, so he took the advice of another inmate. "I threatened the judge," he said. Probably not the best advice, but it became clear to the prosecutors that incarceration has many facets.

Asked about initial incarceration, one inmate said, "When I got to the county jail, the other inmates wanted to know what gang I was in."

Martinez-Shaw said it was unique to the forum that every participating inmate accepted responsibility for his crime. DA Berberian commented it was surprising and very refreshing to see men own up to their actions.

Berberian thanked the forum members for allowing him and his staff to examine the many issues regarding the criminal justice system. He said, "This forum has provided us an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge by directly interacting with prison inmates."

As Martinez-Shaw said, "Learning from you men provides us information we need to know so we can do our job better."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates, district attorney and guest discuss possible solutions to criminal problems

After 25 Years of Dedication, Supreme Court Justice Joyce L. Kennard Retires

By C. Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

California Supreme Court Justice Joyce L. Kennard has announced her retirement after 25 years of service, effective April 5.

Kennard was the longest serving member of the court, having been elected and re-elected after her initial appointment by Gov. George Deukmajian in 1989. She was the second woman, and the first justice of Asian descent, to join

the state's highest court.

"Any success I achieved could have happened only in America, a land that encourages impossible dreams," Kennard wrote in her letter of resignation to Gov. Jerry Brown.

Kennard, 72, maintained a reputation as one of the closest questioners on the court and was known for going her own way, according to *The Recorder*, an online legal news service.

Kennard was essential in one of the court's most famous ma-



Official Photo

Justice Joyce L. Kennard

jorities in its history, the "2008 Marriage Cases" decision that recognized the right to same-sex marriage in California and kicked off a wave of similar actions around the country.

A significant component California parole boards use in deciding whether to grant parole is the inmate's current dangerousness. Kennard voted with the majority in a 4 to 3 decision ruling that the circumstances of a commitment offense do not provide evidence that a defendant poses a current threat

to public safety.

Prior to Kennard's departure, the California Supreme Court boasted a majority of women and of Asian Americans, with a chief justice who shares both characteristics.

The vacancy gives Gov. Brown his second pick of a state Supreme Court justice during this term. Brown appointed Justice Goodwin Liu in 2011 and, in his three terms as governor, has appointed nine justices to the California Supreme Court.

Report: Record Breaking Increase in Exonerations

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

In a record-breaking year for exonerations in the United States, law enforcement officials say, "We are getting better at avoiding wrongful convictions."

"The recent increase in the number of exonerations initiated by law enforcement directly shows that police and prosecutors have become more attentive and concerned about the danger of false conviction," according to *The National Registry of Exonerations: Exonerations in 2013 (NRE)*. "Police and prosecutors appear to be taking increasingly active roles in reinvestigating possible false convictions, and to be more responsive to claims of innocence from convicted defendants."

"The pattern of exonerations in 2013 suggests that we are increasingly willing to consider and act on the types of innocence claims that are often ignored."

Those persons exonerated "were convicted, on average, more than 12 years earlier; some more than 30 years earlier," according to *NRE*. "...we are working harder to identify the mistakes we made years ago and ... we are catching more of them."

According to the Registry, there were 87 exonerations in 2013. From 1989 to Feb. 3, 2014, the report listed 1,304 exonerations.

From January 1989 through December, 92 percent of the 1,281 individual exonerations were men and eight percent women. "As a group, the defendants spent nearly 12,500 years in prison for crimes which they should not have been convicted – an average of 10 years each," the report said.

The 10 states with the most exonerations in 2013 were Texas, Illinois, New York, Washington, California, Michigan, Missouri, Connecticut, Georgia and Virginia.

In its report, the Registry expects these numbers will

increase as additional exonerations occur after 2013. Prior to this record-breaking year, the next highest total of exonerations was in 2009 with 83 known exonerations.

"Police and prosecutors appear to be taking increasingly active roles in reinvestigating possible false convictions"

The majority of exonerations reported over this 25-year period were homicide and sexual assault cases. According to the report, in 2013 there were "40 murder exonerations – including one exoneration of a prisoner who had

been sentenced to death – and 18 exonerations that involved rape or other sexual assault. Eight percent of known exonerations occurred in cases in which the defendants were sentenced to death.

"Death Row exonerations have averaged about three a year for the past decade, down from about six per year for the decade before that," the Registry reported. "The number of Death Row exonerations will continue to drop if the death penalty continues to lose favor in the United States and death sentences become increasingly rare."

"Most known exonerations still involve homicide or sexual assault or both, but that proportion is down from 81 percent of known exonerations on March 1, 2012, to 80 percent at the end of 2012 to 78 percent at the end of 2013," it was reported.

The proportion of exonerations that do not involve rape or murder has also grown from 18 percent in 1989 through 1998 to 24 percent

from 2009 through 2013. The report explained 29 exonerations (33 percent of the total) did not involve either of these extreme crimes of violence. This was a record number of exonerations in such cases and a comparatively high proportion of all exonerations. From 1989 through 2007, 66 percent of DNA exonerations were rape cases.

DNA cases have been the minority of exonerations in the United States. They accounted for a fifth of the total in 2013. The number of these cases "continued to decline slowly, as it has for most of the past decade, while the number of non-DNA exonerations rose sharply."

The report also shows 27 of the 87 exonerations occurred when no crime was committed.

The reports revealed 47 percent of the homicides cases exonerated occurred from 1989-2013. During that same period, sexual assaults amounted to 31 percent of those cases exonerated.

U.S. Supreme Court Regulates Federal Inmate Lawsuits

The U.S. Supreme Court has limited federal inmate lawsuits against privately operated prisons in federal courts, but the door is still open for suits in other courts.

The decision is "not a disaster for inmate rights," said Alexander Volokh, associate professor at Emory Law School.

In 1971, the high court recognized a remedy, called the Bivens Doctrine, for litigants to sue federal officials for money damages for violating their constitutional rights. Federal prisoners have used the doctrine to sue federal

prison officials for money damages for unconstitutional treatments and conditions of confinement.

Writing for the Akron Law Review, Volokh argues that the decision is "a lot less threatening to civil rights claimants than it may seem to be at first glance."

The court ruled in *Minnecci v. Pollard* that a federal prisoner can't sue employees at a privately run federal prison for money damages under Bivens for violation of the Eighth Amendment, if traditional tort damages for the employees' conduct are avail-

able under the state law.

The Bivens remedy continues to be available to federal prisoners confined in public prisons.

Volokh acknowledges that "Minnecci is somewhat harmful to federal inmate litigants in that it removes a potentially useful cause of action" and that "it may have been wrongly decided as a matter of Bivens doctrine." However, he believes it is "no doomsday" on prisoner rights.

There has consistently been a Supreme Court majority for limiting Bivens remedy when there have been alternative

remedial schemes, Volokh points out.

As Volokh has noted, the standard for proving an Eighth Amendment violation is harder to meet than to prove negligence in state court, where supervisory liability is available, and where neither the private prisons nor their employees are entitled to immunity. Bivens prohibits suing supervisors for subordinates' behavior.

Although Minnecci has created an obvious disparity in judicial remedies concerning private and public prisons, Volokh doubts that it will

"permit a Bivens cause of action to be contracted away by federal entities who outsource their responsibilities to private corporations."

"Bivens itself can be contracted away, as Minnecci shows," Volokh reasons, "but that's not the same as contracting away accountability." Privatization will only subject federal inmates to the "relative attractiveness of state-law remedies," he adds, and "Bivens might survive in other Eighth Amendment cases with no clear tort-law analogues."

—By C. Kao

Disqualified Juror Prompts Federal Judge to Overturn Double-Murder Conviction

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has overturned the double-murder conviction of a condemned prisoner because the prosecution disqualified the only black person in the jury pool.

The case involves Steven E. Crittenden, an African-American now aged 46 who has

spent the last 24 years on San Quentin's Death Row.

His conviction and sentence was overturned in November by U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller. It was alleged that then student athlete Crittenden had robbed and murdered Dr. William Chaipella and his wife, Katherine.

The judge faulted the prosecutor's dismissal of the only

African-American in the jury pool. The question of race shadowed the case even before Crittenden's conviction by a Placer County jury. Prosecutor Gerald E. Flanagan used a preemptory challenge to remove the only African-American on the 50-person jury pool.

During Crittenden's appeal, Flanagan testified he had no

recollection of the circumstances which led to the challenge. Now retired trial Judge James D. Garbolino and U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows said they were satisfied Flanagan acted more out of concern for the woman's negative feelings about the death penalty than the color of her skin.

Willie Hyman, head of the

Butte Community Coalition, a group that tracks racism, calls the Chico area "the Mississippi of Northern California." He also insists that Crittenden is not guilty. "It's the way black people in the county were treated, because the Caucasian family that was murdered was very well known and loved people," Hyman also stated.

Inmates Struggle to Understand Changes To CDCR’s California Code of Regulations

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Inmates often complain about the rejection of their grievances, which are known as administrative appeals, when local appeals coordinators process them.

The problem increases when inmates do not fully understand the appeal system and the continuous changes made to the California Code of Regulations, Title 15 (Division 3).

NOTICE OF CHANGE

The last major overhaul to the appeal process took place in 2011, when the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s (CDCR) Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RMPB) filed an Emergency Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR) to adopt and amend sections of Title 15.

These new regulations introduced the CDCR Form 22,

Inmate/Parolee Request for Interview, Item or Service. This form replaces the informal level of review on the previous CDCR Form 602.

Appeals are filed on a CDCR Form 602, Inmate/Parolee Appeal. Title 15, sections 3084 and 3084.1 through 3084.9 govern the CDCR Form 602.

There is no reference to the CDCR Form 22 in any of these sections because they do not govern this new form. Form 22 is governed by Title 15, section 3086. This section outlines the procedure on how to write sound requests.

Title 15 is in a continual state of development because the CDCR is not a static entity. Title 15 changes according to the needs of the department, the inmate population and mandates set forth in the law.

Proposed changes to Title 15 are written by CDCR and printed in NCRs; inmates

sometimes refer to them as “those pink things” because of the color of the cover page.

“All CDCR regulations must be created and approved in accord with the requirements of the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA),” according to the *California State Prisoners Handbook*, by Heather MacKay and the Prison Law Office. “The APA is set forth (in) Government Code section 11340 *et seq.* The statutes requiring the CDCR to promulgate rules pursuant to the APA were passed in 1975, legislatively overruling a court decision that had held that the APA did not apply to CDCR rules.”

COMMENTS

The APA mandates that changes to regulations are made available to the public with a subsequent period for public comment. Comments may be made by attending a public hearings on specified

dates and times at CDCR headquarters at 1515 S St., North Building, Sacramento, CA 95811. Public hearing are held at other locations, too, according to CDCR Public Information Officer, Kristina Khokhobashvili. Comments may also be made in writing and mailed to CDCR RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001; by faxing to (916) 324-6075; or sending an e-mail to RPMB@cdc.ca.gov.

When the public comment period ends, the state agency reviews the comments. When the rulemaking package is finalized, it is then sent to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review in Sacramento. The OAL may or may not approve the rulemaking package for many reasons.

A Decision of Disapproval of Regulatory Action may be issued for some regulations. Approved regulations are forwarded to California’s Secre-

tary of State to be updated in Title 15.

REGULATIONS

Pending regulations (NCRs) not cited in a current publication of Title 15 may be read in prison law libraries or online. Notices “shall be posted immediately upon receipt at locations accessible to inmates, parolees and employees in each department facility and field office...” pursuant to the Department Operations Manual.

NCRs can also be mailed directly to anyone who wishes to receive a copy by writing to the CDCR RPMB and requesting to be placed on its mailing list.

Regulations direct the use of CDCR forms (i.e., CDCR 22, 602, etc.). Understanding how the regulation process works can make communication between inmates and staff less adversarial, supporters say.

Female Prisoners Who Underwent Operations Faced Sterilization

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Over an eight-year period, nearly 800 female prisoners underwent operations that could have resulted in sterilization, according to a California state audit.

In most of these cases, sterilization was an unintended consequence of hysterectomies intended to treat cancer and other health problems.

However, “144 female inmates were sterilized by a procedure known as bilateral tubal ligation, a surgery generally performed for the sole purpose of sterilization,” according to the report.

Under California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) rules, bilateral tubal ligation is a procedure that is not medically necessary. The last of these sterilizations oc-

curred in 2011.

State regulations require informed consent before a woman can be sterilized; “however, Corrections and the Receiver’s Office sometimes failed to ensure that inmates’ consent for sterilization was lawfully obtained,” the audit reports.

INCONSISTENCIES WITH INMATES’ INFORMED CONSENT

Thirty-nine inmates were sterilized following deficiencies in the informed consent process. The audit noted two types of deficiencies: physician signatures and waiting period violations.

A physician is supposed to sign the consent form immediately before performing the surgery. This is to ensure that the mandatory waiting period has elapsed, that the patient is men-

tally competent and that she understands the lasting effects of the operation.

However, in 27 cases of the 39 cases, the physician failed to sign the required consent form.

The waiting period — a minimum of 72 hours from the time the patient signs the consent form until the time of the operation — is intended to allow the patient time to think about the choice she is making. She can change her mind at any point.

But in 18 instances, the audit found possible violations of this waiting period.

Six inmate sterilizations involved the violation of both these requirements.

Compounding these problems with informed consent, the audit found that inmates who consented to sterilization likely did so without a witness of their choice. This witness

serves as another safeguard to ensure that the patient both understands and desires the procedure. The witness can also protect the state from accusations that an inmate was coerced into sterilization.

“The unwillingness or inability of the Receiver’s Office to provide inmates with the opportunity to have a witness of their choice — as required by Title 22 — serves to reinforce and highlight the problematic process that prison medical staff followed when obtaining inmates’ consent for sterilization,” the audit stated.

Although the sterilization procedures were performed by general acute care hospitals, not by prison doctors or the federal receiver’s employees, the auditor “concluded that they had a responsibility to ensure that the informed consent requirements were followed in those instances in which their employees obtained inmates’ consent, which was the case for at least 19 of the 39 inmates.”

Additionally, the true number of women sterilized without lawful consent may be higher.

“For example, one hospital destroyed seven inmate medical records in accordance with its records retention policy” the audit stated. “Five of these seven inmates consented to the sterilization procedure while in prison, and it is unclear — based on available records — whether physicians signed the

sterilization consent forms just prior to surgery.”

For all 144 cases in the audit, “prison medical staff failed to document what was discussed with the inmate, as required by prison medical procedures.”

The audit could not determine if inmates were properly informed about the “sensitive and life-changing” procedure whether through education materials or by medical staff.

The audit determined that the “failure to obtain the necessary approvals was systemic.”

Only one bilateral tubal ligation procedure received all the required levels of approval, according to the audit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The auditor recommended that the Receiver’s Office report to the California Department of Public Health and the Medical Board of California the names of all hospitals and physicians associated with inmates’ bilateral tubal ligations so that both educational and disciplinary action might be taken.

The Receiver’s Office should draft and implement a plan to monitor how its medical staff and contractors adhere to the informed consent requirements by the end of this year, stated the audit.

Finally, the report recommended that medical staff should improve the quality of information they document in inmate medical records.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dude, Where’s My San Quentin Newspaper?

To whom it may Concern:

First and for most, I like to open by saying I pray the content of my writing here finds you and all your staff members under God’s never-ending care.

Received the paper, or rather, one of the papers, I paid for. Thank you for the time and effort. However, you’re right: I haven’t or didn’t receive the other.

Which is a very small issue in comparison to the two other questions I have. My first question would be, do you always respond to your subscribers in such a brief and unconcerned way? Forgive me if I’m wrong, however, once again you made me feel as if I didn’t deserve a proper response to my inquiry,

concerning not only the stamps I sent. But mainly what happened to the articles I sent? Do I not deserve an adequate response since I’m an inmate? Or would you respond in like manner to your outside subscribers? I hope not. Very unprofessional.

In regards to the three articles, all of which were matters of substance. Things in which we as matured individuals should consider. In what way did they not meet your standards? Please consider I took time to try to enhance the quality of your paper by taking time to write them. And due to my age, and not having a typewriter on hand, you were entitled to correct any mistakes I made, so I’m totally confused as to what happened.

I realize you can’t write everyone to say why your paper couldn’t print every article. That’s quite understandable. However, you can honor their request by sending their stamps or money to see to it they get them.

Thank you Carl P.
Editor’s response:

Thank you for your letter and concern. We would like to humbly apologize for the inconvenience that we caused you. We are currently in the process of moving to a new location within San Quentin. We hope to correct your postage problem as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Design Editor,
Richard ‘Bonaru’ Richardson

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Seven Sisters Mystery School Holds Fundraiser for San Quentin News

By Marguerite Rigoglioso
Contributing Writer

Local healers and community activists hosted the San Quentin Healing Ceremony & Fundraiser for the *San Quentin News* on May 3 on Ring Mountain in Tiburon.

Hosted by Seven Sisters Mystery School, the fundraiser brought together some Bay Area leaders in the evolutionary healing and human rights communities who participated in the ceremony of chanting and drumming.

“Many of us feel overwhelmed by the tragic fact that ‘hurt people hurt people,’ and are disturbed by the fact that most incarcerated men are people of color”

The event raised nearly \$800, with half going to *San Quentin News* to help the paper expand to reach all of the state’s inmates.

“The event represents a unique form of activism and healing intended to help a dis-



File photo

The Seven Sisters Mystery School and the Bay Area community hold a fundraiser for San Quentin Healing Ceremony and *San Quentin News*

tressed community in our midst, one that is largely ignored in the Bay Area,” a Seven Sisters Mystery School press release read. “There are many people in the Bay Area who want to help but don’t know how. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the tragic fact that ‘hurt people hurt people’ and are disturbed by the

fact that most incarcerated men are people of color. We want to foster connections with those in our local community who care and want to come together to do something in regard to the conditions within the penal system.”

Participants in the fundraiser started walking up Ring Moun-

tain around 1 p.m. from the entry gate on Paradise Drive in Tiburon. A second circle of those who preferred not to walk remained at the foot of the mountain.

The event was inspired by the work of Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, and other authors, the press release read.

Report Shows San Diego Inmate’s Struggle With Cancer Before and After Her Release

Reid’s daughter and sister cut the ankle monitor off after she fell into a coma on Oct. 14, 2013

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Robin Reid was dying of cancer when she was sentenced to four years in the San Diego County Jail – making her a perfect candidate for a compassionate release. But a new law wasn’t available, so she had to endure complex procedures to get the needed medical care, *San Diego City Beat* reports.

“SB 1462’s implementation has been delayed while the state sets up a process to ensure that indigent inmates released under the new law will have Medi-Cal coverage. Reid got caught up in that delay even though she had private insurance,” according to a *City Beat* editorial.

The county District Attorney’s Office granted a “special sentence” to Reid, who was convicted of operating an erotic massage business in San Diego.

“Reid was jailed Mondays through Wednesdays and allowed to leave Thursdays morning to receive chemotherapy,” according to *City Beat* Associate Editor Kelly Davis.

After spending nine months, checking in and out of the county jail, she was eventually released to home detention. With help from the ACLU and

cooperation of the county sheriff, Reid was confined to the house except for medical appointments and to run certain errands.

During her home detention, “she had to wear a GPS ankle monitor at all times and was forbidden from using medical marijuana, which had previously helped alleviate chemotherapy side effects,” according to the editorial.

Reid was grateful for the amended sentence, *City Beat* reported, but home confinement and the ankle monitor made the last few months difficult. Reid’s daughter and sister cut the ankle monitor off after she fell into a coma on Oct. 14, 2013. “Reid died the next day” after entering a hospice in late September, *City Beat* reported.

County jail inmates who are terminally ill and medically incapacitated could not be granted compassionate release until SB 1462, supported by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, took effect in January 2013.

Currently, Los Angeles and Orange counties are running SB 1462 pilot programs and other counties will have the option to implement the law this year.

Gov. Jerry Brown’s plan for prison Realignment requires the statewide corrections system to

be smart with how limited resources are used. Under these new restrictions, jail and prison administrators should decide who should be released pending trial, who should be released to probation, and under what conditions.

Sheriff Baca estimated that while only 10 inmates would qualify annually for compassionate release from his jails, the savings on medical costs would be \$7.3 million.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis Wants New Division Stopping Recidivating Offenders

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis joined California Attorney General Kamala Harris in announcing plans to create a new unit to curb recidivism.

The new Division of Recidivism and Re-Entry will use innovative technology, such as the California SmartJustice program led by the state attorney general.

This will help prosecutors to have accurate data and help to determine prison realignment on public safety, using the latest art of technology, Dumanis said in a news release. The sys-



File Photo

Seven Sisters Mystery School members, local healers and community activists gather for the event

tem analyzes offenders’ recidivism risk factors. It also tracks repeat offenders and offense trends to provide counties more effective options of developing anti-recidivism initiatives.

“San Diego County has been a statewide leader in working to reduce recidivism through innovative prisoner re-entry programs,” Dumanis said. “We welcome the attorney general’s leadership and commitment of resources in this area as our county continues to protect public safety while dealing with the ongoing challenges brought on by prisoner realignment.”

Dumanis said the goal is to continue working with law enforcement to try and stop the re-

volving door to prison and protect public safety. Since 2007, the prisoner re-entry program has lowered the recidivism rate to 34 percent and resulted in \$10 million in savings.

The San Diego DA’s office participates in other programs such as four drug courts, behavioral health court, and veterans’ court. The county also expanded re-entry court and created a mandatory supervision court—the first of its kind in the state.

The county also has re-entry programming with the Probation Department to make a Community Transitional Center that provides transitional housing for returning state prisoners.

Free After Spending More Than 30 Years Behind Bars

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

David Basile walked outside the walls of San Quentin on June 3, a free man after more than 30 years of incarceration. Convicted of first-degree murder in Santa Clara County, Basile acknowledges that the road to freedom has been full of obstacles of his own making.

"I began to use illegal drugs at the age of 10," Basile said. "It escalated to me shooting heroin for the first time on Nov. 19, 1969."

Basile said he battled drug addiction for more than three decades and conquering those demons was a tough road. It was important for him to do this to change his life, he added.

His first conviction, which was for conspiracy to distribute 1,700 pounds of marijuana, landed him a three-year stint in the federal prison in Lompoc. He came to San Quentin in 1981 for a year for attempted burglary.

Since his current prison term began in 1983, Basile has been in and out of Administrative Segregation. He said that during his last time in Ad-Seg in 2009, a paradigm shift began to occur in his thinking. "I had to leave that anti-social lifestyle and the people who ascribed to it behind."

He described 2009 as the loneliest year of his life. When Basile was released from Ad-Seg in 2009, he enrolled in Paten University, an on-site college

program at San Quentin. "This one move allowed me to reintegrate and communicate with people who were into positive programming and were attempting to change their lives."

Even though he already had a college degree, he said the biggest lesson he learned was one he never expected. "It allowed

me to see humanity without the blinders I wore that restricted my past interactions with my own race."

He also credits other programs with helping him overcome some of his obstacles. He began attending Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) in 2006. In 2007, he took part in a medi-

ated visit with the family of the victims of his crime.

"After this, I began to make direct and indirect amends in my life for the crimes I committed," Basile said. "In 2009, while involved in the VOEG Next-Step program, several of us put together a curriculum for the Reception Center inmates who were then in the gym. This was the beginning of giving back to my community."

It was while he was doing this work that he said he began to understand how much he was changing and, more importantly, that it was possible to change.

"I remember running into a couple of homeboys who I knew from other prisons. They told me that they were astonished by the change they saw in me. It was all the validation I needed to know I was on the right path."

It was during his work with at-risk youth in the SQUIRES program that he began to piece together some important aspects of his life. "What I saw with these at-risk youths helped me to track my own personal history," he said. "By understanding myself, I soon began to see the connection, which affected my behavior, addiction and incarceration."

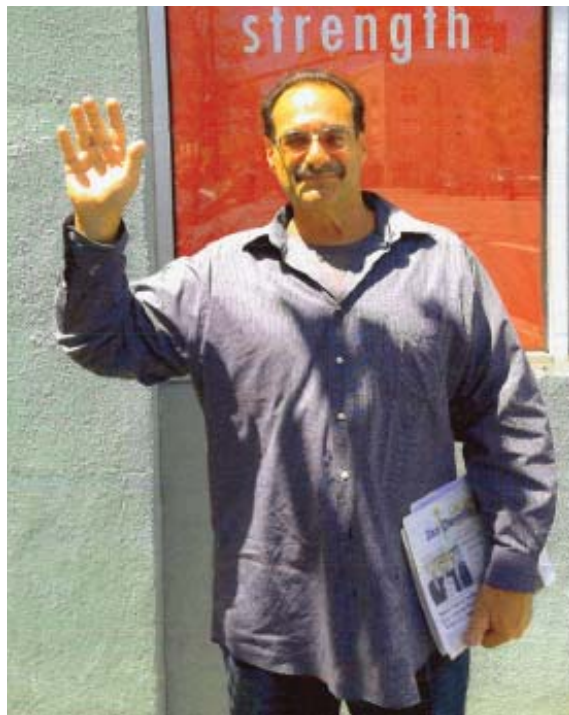
The clarity he got from working with these young men in the SQUIRES program allowed him to make a greater impact on his community by sharing his experiences and relating them to others.

In 2013, Basile became chairman of the SQUIRES program and he said he began to think about the young men who had gone through the program. "I want to establish an at-risk youth intervention group in conjunction with SQUIRES," said Basile. He envisions a SQUIRES after-care program that will continue to address the issues that the young men confronted during their visits to San Quentin.

Basile also began to tutor fellow prisoners in preparation for the GED test as a way of making direct amends. Basile was part of a conversation about education in prison when then-Director of Corrections Mathew Cate visited the Prison University Project in 2012. Because of that visit by Cate, a program was established that set up a nighttime tutoring program, in which Basile took part.

Basile said he has worked hard for the past five years to really change his life, not only for himself, but also for other people who might be in his shoes. "For the last five years my goal has been to model the work that individuals like me can do in order to have hope of a suitability finding. Now, I look forward to walking out of prison and being a successful model for those who have many challenges ahead of them when it comes to parole."

Basile admitted that waiting out the governor's review period for his suitability finding was the hardest time he ever had to do. "I never thought this day would come. But through hard work and programming, anyone can turn things around. I will miss many of the people at San Quentin and look forward to hearing of their success as well."



File Photo

David Basile free, holding a *San Quentin News*

Wrongful Identification Still Haunts Inmate Guy Miles

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

According to court papers, there is strong evidence that San Quentin inmate Guy Miles has been incarcerated for 16 years for crimes based upon a wrongful identification.

Years after his conviction, the Innocence Project lawyers report they uncovered the actual perpetrators of the robbery: Bernard Teamer, Jason Steward and Harold Bailey.

"Steward was never arrested for the robbery, but at my hearing he confessed before Orange County Superior Court Judge Fasal that he was the driver and that I wasn't there," Miles said. "But Steward can't be charged because the statute of limitations has run out."

Miles now awaits two major events, either of which could release him — a court decision or a review by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"I was sentenced to life for crimes I didn't commit, so I'm the one who really needs justice," said Miles.

On June 29, 1998, Miles was arrested for two counts of robbery, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and a gang enhancement. Despite all that, Miles said he is in good hands with his legal team.

In July 2013 Miles went back to court for the second time with a team of lawyers from the Cali-

fornia Innocence Project. One of them was Alissa Bjerkhoel, a lawyer who has been fighting for his freedom for more than a decade.

"His case came to our office in 2003; at his original trial, his alibi was really good. He had nine alibi witnesses," Bjerkhoel said. "The judge at that trial only allowed six to testify. He said it was cumulative. First of all, it was wrong. I don't care how long it is. I think everyone should be able to testify."

Bjerkhoel said the witnesses prevented from testifying were not his friends. They were people who had no interest in the case.

Miles asserts that the basics of his case came down to eyewitness testimony, and the eyewitnesses were all wrong.

"It literally wasn't me, because when the crimes happened, I wasn't in California. I was in Las Vegas, Nevada where I was living," says Miles.

Miles added that Assistant District Attorney John Anderson said in his closing arguments that he had received a fair trial and rejected his alibi that he was in Las Vegas when the crime happened.

However, Miles indicated that the prosecution saw its star witness, Trina Gomez, was in doubt about her identification.

"My attorney, Frank Williams, asked her to come down

from the stand to get a closer look. She walked toward me and asked me to turn around. She studied my face, body, hands and movements," Miles said. "Then she walked back to the witness stand, turned to the jury and stated, 'I don't think it's him.'"

Miles believes the prosecution case bled into racial profiling because, when the prosecution discovered he had nothing to do with the crime, it still pursued the case.

"I was sentenced to life for crimes I didn't commit, so I'm the one who really needs justice"

According to Miles, D.A. Anderson paid close attention to Steward's testimony and told Judge Fasal that Steward did not have all the facts. When these men confessed to the crime, the prosecution changed its legal theory of the case.

"At my first trial they argued I was recruited to help a fellow gang member. This time they argued that I recruited other gang members to come forward and confess to the crime."

That was absurd, Miles said, shaking his head. He said the prosecution did not produce a shred of new evidence that he was the perpetrator the eyewitnesses saw.

"The evidence demonstrated I didn't even know two of the men that confessed. It also showed that the eyewitness who had originally identified me was now identifying one of the men who confessed."

Miles said he was not surprised that the jury came back with a guilty verdict at his original trial.

"Being tried in Orange County, moreover, being that I had an all-white jury, it's no secret that racial profiling is a huge problem in Orange County, especially for African-Americans and Hispanics. It was more probable that I would be convicted than not," said Miles.

Miles said the negative images of African-American men on television might have assisted in bolstering the mistaken identity in his case. "We're depicted either as dope dealers, murderers or gang members, so an all-white jury can't really relate that not all African-American men are criminals," said Miles.

On Jan. 5, Miles said he found out from his lawyer, Bjerkhoel, that Brown did not review his clemency petition.

"He didn't deny it. He just didn't look at. But I'm still in the

arena where he can look at it in the future. Right now, we're still waiting for the decision from the Orange County Santa Ana Central Court," Miles said.

Miles, 48, is one of the California 12, a group of incarcerated individuals represented by the California Innocence Project. Last year they urged Brown to grant clemency to him and to 11 other California prisoners because they said the evidence of innocence in their individual cases was overwhelming.

Lawyers Bjerkhoel, director Justin Brooks and Michael Semanchik of the California Innocence Project walked from San Diego to Sacramento in April 2013 in an effort to increase awareness of the California 12.

They walked 712 miles and got there on June 20, 2013, with blisters on their feet. They walked for 51 days and gave the clemency petitions to Brown, Miles said.

In coping with these years of incarceration, Miles said, he is just trying to keep a positive attitude and thanks the California Innocence Project for fighting for his freedom and the freedom of others. He says that for people who do not have the financial resources or voice, Stiglitz and Semanchik are warriors.

"But as they say on the TV show 'Scandal,' Alyssa Bjerkhoel is a gladiator. She's my gladiator."

San Quentin Prisoners Share Their Talents at The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Exhibit

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

Artists behind the walls of San Quentin have blurred the boundaries of community. Artwork from the men who take part in the art classes sponsored by the William James Association in San Quentin will make its way into a prominent San Francisco arts center beginning July 18.

The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is holding its triennial art exhibit titled *Bay Area Now 7*. In 1997, YBCA began to hold art exhibits that showcase local artists' work, which are the most exciting artistic voices in the Bay Area, according to YBCA.

Bay Area Now is an art exhibit that "marks a moment in the life of the institution and regional art scenes through the work of the participating artists who are seen as representative of the spirit of that particular time," according to a *Bay Area Now 7* press release.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the art of prisoners to reach an art-oriented public," commented Carol Newborg, program director for the San Quentin Prison Arts Project.

Newborg and fellow San



Photo by Carol Newborg

Ink on Paper "The Musketeer" by James Norton

quental arts at YBCA.

The diversity of the artwork that will be featured in *Bay Area Now 7* reflects the overwhelming response by the art community in the Bay Area

our lead-man (Scotty McKinstry) are always there to assist and teach. This is a great exercise in cooperation and teamwork," says Christopher Christensen, a member of the

positive view a lot of the time. It's just amazing."

The exhibit will not only feature the artwork of current inmates, but also prints from former San Quentin residents Felix Lucero, Rolf Kissmann, Henry Frank, Ronnie Goodman and Brendan Murdoch.

On Sept. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., former San Quentin prisoners will read the writings of the still-incarcerated creative writing group, Brothers in Pen. The group is another outlet of the art programs at San Quentin sponsored by the William James Association.

"This is a great opportunity for me and my art to be displayed in such a prominent atmosphere," said Isiah "MWasi" Daniels. "I give thanks to the William James Association and YBCA for allowing such an opportunity. I am an example of what the art program can accomplish. I gained confidence in my abilities as an artist, and it helped me unite with men and women I never would have, if it were not for the program."

The exhibit includes Daniels' piece *Generation*, which is an example of pointillism. It is done with ink on paper, and took Daniels 110 hours to complete.



Photo by Carol Newborg

Acrylic on board by Gerald Morgan

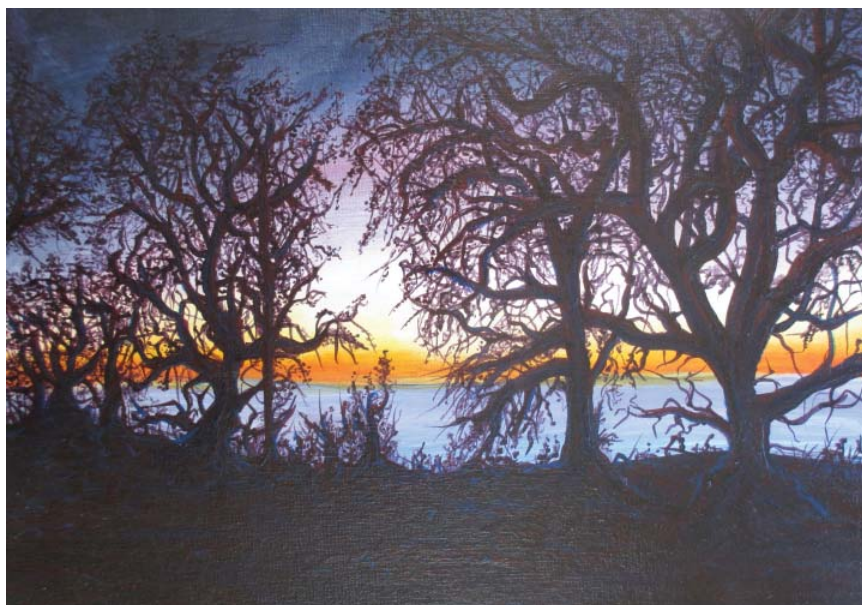


Photo by Carol Newborg

Acrylic on board "Greeley Hill Sunset" by Fred Tinsley

Quentin art instructor Amy Ho had to submit a proposal of San Quentin artists' work to a selection committee that viewed 50 proposals, according to the YBCA press release. The competition was narrowed down to 15 partner organizations that will "create a dynamic art fair environment by curating site-specific projects throughout our galleries and campus," according to YBCA.

"The incredible range and scope of the proposals selected reflects the larger diversity and strength of the Bay Area arts community," said Ceci Moss, assistant curator of vi-

to be a part of this celebrated art exhibit. The San Quentin Prison Arts Project will display the artwork of 30 artists that includes paintings, block prints, silk screens and five panels of a 16-panel mural from San Quentin.

The mural is an imaginary cityscape that will eventually make its way into the North Dining Hall inside San Quentin. Six prisoners worked on the mural, which is painted on wooden panels.

"Working on a painting this size with more experienced artists is a great learning opportunity. I still make mistakes but others – especially

mural crew.

Also included in the exhibit will be music, dance and theater, films and spoken word performances, according to YBCA.

"YBCA gave us a really prominent space in the anteroom to display approximately 50 pieces of work," said Newborg. She has helped to curate art shows for the San Quentin Prison Arts Project in the past. People leave these art shows with a view that is opposite to the one they walked in with, she commented. "People walk in with one perception of what a prisoner is and leave with a totally op-

A sense of community is a feeling many of the artists talk about when commenting on the YBCA exhibit. "It's very helpful to be a part of a community project," says Noah Wright, whose acrylic on canvas painting *Gone Fishing with Grandpa* will be part of the exhibit.

Recognizing the artists inside the walls has been beneficial in community building. However, an even more important aspect of the art programs is what actually takes place in the San Quentin Prison Arts Project itself.

"This has been a godsend for me. There is a spirit of serenity in (the program) most of the time, and I appreciate being around kindred spirits," says artist David Johnson. His mixed medium acrylic and watercolor on canvas painting series titled *The Knowledge of Good and Evil* will be on display.

"Art is my self-help group, my meditation, my Zen, my escape from reality," says James Norton, who is part of the mural crew and has a pencil on paper drawing titled *The Musketeer* in the exhibit.

Frederick Tinsley, who has two acrylic on canvas paintings in the show, put it simply, "I have fun doing this stuff."

No matter how much fun the artist may have creating, their work is serious and they appreciate what the program is doing to help them. "Art has saved my life," says Dennis Crookes, an artist who is displaying his oil on canvas, *Solace*.

It is a salvation that the public will be able to witness firsthand in the YBCA exhibit *Bay Area Now 7*, running from July 18 through Oct. 12.

YBCA is located at 701 Mission St., San Francisco, Ca 94103, and may be contacted at www.ybca.org.

2014 GRADUATION HELD AT SAN QUENTIN

Continued from Page 1

acknowledged 45 inmates who earned General Education Development (GED) diplomas, seven who received associate degrees from the privately funded Prison University Project (PUP) and an inmate who was awarded a vocational machine shop certificate.

"Dozens of inmates' families were allowed inside the prison to watch their loved ones receive recognition for completing the educational programs.

"What a wonderful day it is today. Your hard work has paid off," said Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, the first day's keynote speaker. "Thanks (go) to the teachers, prison administrators and family support. No one does it by himself. Everyone needs a support system. We can overcome our challenges. Keep doing the great work."

"Thank you so much for giving nourishment in a place that sometimes could feel like a desert," said the second day's keynote speaker, former San Quentin inmate, Pat Mims.

"Everyone says San Quentin is a flagship for rehabilitation. We need to put the sail to the wind, and get these programs in other prisons," continued Mims. "I want all of you to get out to better your community. Always remember, this is the start to what's to come. I've walked in those hard brown shoes, those tennis shoes, that CDCR shirt. That's not you. They do not define you. Freedom goes in steps. You've made a part of freedom. Keep taking those steps. As long as you keep taking the steps, you move toward upward mobility."

"I work in the most active rehabilitative place in the United States, in the world," said Associate Warden Steve Albritton. "It's not how we start our race; it's how we finish the race. For those continuing your education, I commend you. You have my full support. We can never over-educate ourselves. Education is the great equalizer."

PUP receives its accreditation from Patten College. Thomas Stewart, Ph.D., the prison university's president, told the graduates: "Take your degree



Mother Martha and Tommy Winfrey with David Monroe, Miguel Quesada and Kara Urion

and knowledge and use it for good."

Stewart then made the following offer: "Each graduate is extended a scholarship to get

incarceration at prisons where violence, despair, racial division and gangs were prevalent.

"When I heard about the college program at San Quentin, I

Coastline Community College. I started in Level IV and kept studying," he said.

"I'm very happy and proud of his accomplishment," said



David Zaffa, Raquel Espino, Agustin, Leticia and Rachel Munoz

a bachelor's degree. The only challenge is to use it for social justice."

Aly Tamboura, this year's Patten valedictorian, told the audience about his journey toward a higher education. He began his

wrote a letter to Jennifer Scaife to get in. I believe that education allows positive change. Education gives us the ability to look at life through a different lens," said Tamboura.

Tamboura acknowledged his family in the audience and thanked them for supporting him. "This achievement is for you, mom," he said.

"I'm so proud of my son," Tamboura's mother said. "I knew he could do it. I can't wait for him to come home."

Tamboura's daughter, Alyssa, said, "When a person thinks about how their life's going to turn out, you don't think your father is going to be in prison. But my father is taking the time to better himself."

"It's been hard, but I'm happy that my father has found something that is his calling," added Tamboura's other daughter, Samantha.

Inmate John Lam, who arrived at San Quentin in 2012, earned degrees in social and behavioral science, humanities, American studies and business from

prison. I hope that more teachers would volunteer to teach inmates who want to learn."

Tommy Winfrey earned degrees on both days. His mother, Martha, traveled from Texas to see her son's graduation. "He's a great son. He's in all sorts of programs and he's done marvelous things. Sometimes it's hard, but I come once a year. I expect him to do greater things."

Sandy Claire is a tutor in PUP's study hall. Claire began volunteering at San Quentin in early 2011 with the Restorative Justice program. "Volunteering at San Quentin has become an important part of my life," Claire said. "There's so much talent and intelligence and creativity here."

"I saw education as a chore," said GED valedictorian Andrew D. Sabatino. "It didn't really hit me until I saw all my friends graduating. When I saw the prison programs, I saw hope. We have control of what and how we think. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reshape my life."

Phillip Brown began studying for his GED at California Men's Colony in 2009. "I left the streets at a young age," said Brown. "I'm the first to graduate of my brothers and sisters. I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me."

"It's a blessing that my husband's received his GED in spite of the obstacles of prison," said Brown's wife, Janaun. "I would love for him to go to college."

"He's a real good dude," inmate Greg Eskridge said of Brown. "I've known him about six or seven years. He's like a little brother to me. His educational journey was a struggle. He kept telling me that he didn't think he'd finish it. But he said he made a promise to his grandmother that he'd finish his education, and he kept his word. He has a lot of strength and he wants to better himself."

Marcus D. Chavarria said he started studying for his GED in 2011. "Finding a quiet place to study was hard to do in prison. But getting a GED allows me to get a raise at my job," he said. Chavarria's job assignment was with the Prison Industry Authority. "It's my source of income and it gives me a chance to learn a trade. Getting an

education has helped me understand how to do my job better, especially the math classes. My grandkids were happy that I got my GED."

Kenneth Cooksey, 53, received his GED and said, "It feels like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders, because everywhere I go people would throw it (the lack of a high school education) in my face." Cooksey has been at San Quentin for seven years and it has taken him about a year, off and on, to earn his GED.

Todd "Silk" Williams, 51, from Oakland, has been incarcerated for 16 years at High Desert State Prison, California State Prison-Solano, Correctional Training Facility in Soledad and now San Quentin. What's next? "Parole and home ... put this degree to work."

Williams' family came from Oakland. In attendance were his two daughters, Tamara and Tangelia, nephew Eric Gilbert and sister Tracy Patterson.

"I'm very proud of him. He's always been the smartest person I've known, so I'm not surprised that he graduated," said Patterson. "No matter what has happened or transpired in his



Top: Eric Gilbert, Todd "Silk" Williams, Tracy Patterson
Bottom: Daughters Tangelia and Tamara Williams

tence reduced under Proposition 36. He has been incarcerated for 20 years and has done time in Soledad, Solano, Susanville and Tracy (Deuel Vocational Institution) before arriving at San Quentin. Baylis said he took advantage

interest, they will help you," said Baylis, who is now on the waiting list to attend Patten College.

Music provided by: Reggie Austin, keyboard, Greg "Dee" Dixon, bass, Dwight Krizman, drums, Lee Jasper, guitar, Larry "Popeye" Fasion, trumpet, Jim-

has taken the GED Prep, Non-Violent Communication I, II and III, and VOEG.

Don Billington, 68, said, "I started in February this year and I'm graduating" with a GED. San Quentin Chaplain Mardi Jackson said she's supportive



Community advocate Nicole Valentino, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Acting Principal T. Beebe, Steve Emrick, Ms. Searle, Dr. Mitchel, G. Shimel, G. Young and Z. Thomas getting ready to present the graduation certificates

life, I've always been proud of him."

Rodney Baylis, 54, said it took him four months to earn his GED. "I made it on my first try."

Baylis is a three-striker who is not eligible to have his sen-

of the voluntary education program (VEP) to earn his GED at San Quentin. He did this in spite of his 3 a.m. work assignment in the kitchen as a line server. "This is a good program, if you have to be the one to do it. If you show them (the instructors)

my Rojas, congas, and Roman Claudio, percussionist. Color Guard; Craig R. Johnson, David Tarvin, Norfleet Stewart and Ernie Soltaro. "I'm just glad it's

over with," said Glenn Hill, 58. Hill said it took him about two years to complete his GED studies. He started in the GED prep program and the Reach program. Hill has also participated in GRIP, IMPACT, Breaking Barriers, No More Tears, CRI and Peer Health Education.

"I feel great. I finally finished it and got it behind me. The experience has been priceless," said Osburn Walton, 65. Walton said he has been at San Quentin four years and it has taken him about three years to complete his GED. He

and proud of the men who graduated.

Aly Tamboura's family: "I'm very proud to see him complete what he started, said

peacemaker we learn that hurt people hurt people, heal people heal people and free people free people," he said before playing a friendship tune on a windpipe.



Donna and Jody Lewen with Jennifer Scaife



Allen Webb, Terrell Allen, Alfonza Merritt and Nathaniel Moore



Sung Lam, Denh Y., John Lam, My and Tom Lam



Top: Samantha, Aly, Alyssa and Sean Tamboura with Carolyn Johnson. Bottom: Marcia Tamboura holding graduation certificate

Banquet Celebrates the Strong Work of Kid CAT

'Youth are guided through nurturing and compassionate and educational opportunities'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

On July 2, a social event at the prison chapel brought together community members from the Bay Area with inmates, most who began their prison terms as juveniles.

The inmates, many of them now in their 30s and 40s, are involved in a self-help program called Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together). The inmates and their community supporters say they are on a mission "to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices."

"the human capacity of redemption, disarming the stigma in relation to youth, crime and incarceration."

The guests and inmates shared an afternoon meal, listened to speakers honor recent and past Kid CAT graduates and reflected on legislative accomplishments.

Gary "Malachi" Scott, a founding member of Kid CAT, was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the banquet. However, due to complications, he was not able to come into San Quentin. Nevertheless, Scott sent a prepared statement, read by Kid CAT Chairman Michael Nelson.

in California, these juveniles did not think the same way as adults when they committed their crimes. She said when the criminal justice system treats juveniles as adults, the punishing aspects of incarceration is a failed policy.

Calvin talked about the challenges it took to get the mandatory language removed from life without the possibility of parole sentences given to juveniles and to get juveniles with LWOP sentences a chance to have their sentences modified to life with the possibility of parole.

"At a public safety hearing, one of the witnesses who testified was Jeanne Woodford," Calvin said.

"She talked about the transformation she saw inmates go through." Woodford is a former San Quentin warden.

"What sustained me through this was the belief that it was the right thing to do. We have a duty to repair the world. We have a duty to repair ourselves. That duty exists even if we don't believe it will succeed," Calvin said.

She said passage of the legislation was the "most dramatic change in sentencing law in more than two decades," adding, "We hoped from the beginning that this was a first step to talking about the broader issue of how we change the perspective on how to treat juvenile offenders."

Kid CAT members say they "work toward restoring that which has been harmed by the men's poor choices, in the form of providing services to inside and outside communities and to pioneer a community effort of improving societal values in regards to youth and what is important to their well-being and development."

"It is important not to let other people define who you are," Calvin said. "Every day, it is a choice of defining who you are."

"The most important thing is the idea that in a single person there is the entire universe," Calvin said. "Each of you is a universe. Each one of you is a universe individually."

"Growing up, not



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jennifer Armstrong addressing the crowd

a person asked me about my goals," said Kid CAT member Tommy Winfrey. "However, we have big goals. We want to reach for the moon, and if we grab a few stars on the way, then we've accomplished something."

"We are seeking to establish a nonprofit foundation to help those coming out of prison," Winfrey said. "Within a year, *The First Step* course will be re-created in a handbook and published so that we can bring our curriculum to two other prisons and to a high school — so that youth don't have to come to prison. Within two years from now, we would like to be in 10 prisons and get into an additional two or three high schools. Our long-term goal is to get a set curriculum in high schools. We want to promote Youth Justice Awareness, which happens in the month of October. Youth Justice Awareness is already happening in 20 other states."

"I have no shame in my game when it comes to programs that I believe in like the Kid CAT program," supporter Dolan Beard said. "I feel so inspired by them. You inmates, the men in blue, inspire me."

Beard talked about how important the hygiene drive is to needy youngsters.

"What inspires you and what is your motivation? Everybody has a giving heart. They just don't know what and when to give. Want has no calendar. Needy people are needy all the time. Gary Scott said, 'Be a leader, take action.' If at all, what will be your call to action? How will you create awareness? Need knows no calendar."

Inmate Cleo Colman, who works in the Curriculum Department, said about 40 inmates meet Sunday nights. He said inmate facilitators team up with outside facilitators to teach each module. "The men are taught how to identify



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guest and prisoners listen to sound advice

Inmates who participate in the Kid CAT program enroll in *The First Step*, which is a childhood development course exploring three phases of life — the past, present and future. It is a 28-week course with eight modules: Masculinity, Self-Identities, Identifying Emotions, Communicating, Environmental Influences, Consequence, Empathy/Compassion and Forgiveness. The course is taught using large group discussions, lectures, activities and the circle process.

"Youth are guided through nurturing and compassionate and educational opportunities to grow and flourish into caring and productive members of their community," said Elizabeth M. Calvin, senior advocate, Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.

Kid CAT members say they are motivated to demonstrate

"The youth out here need you guys," Scott's statement read. "I realize how important the hygiene drive is. You guys have the power to change lives. I couldn't have done the things out here without what I learned in there."

"Gary Scott is doing great things," said Shalece Booker. It was Booker's first time coming inside San Quentin.

"I'm glad he's out there doing the work he's supposed to do," said *San Quentin News* Design Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson. "Young people are so easily influenced."

Scott and Richardson worked in the same office when Scott was *San Quentin News* sports editor.

Calvin told the audience about the difficulties of getting juvenile justice reform through California's legislators.

She pointed out that when juvenile offenders are sentenced to LWOP (life without parole)



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Everyone is elated as the food is served

Kid CAT also has a community outreach component that works with organizations to address youth issues. There is a holiday card-decorating event for Oakland's Children's Hospital.

The San Quentin group publishes a Kid CAT newsletter, *The Road: A Path to Youth Empowerment*.

Every six months, Kid CAT conducts a hygiene drive for Bay Area homeless children.

The Kid CAT Juvenile Lifer Support Group meets twice a month. JLSG provides a space for incarcerated men who entered the prison system at a young age to be able to process topics uniquely catered to address their specific needs.

emotions and to distinguish primary feelings from secondary feelings. By doing so, the men begin to understand where frustration comes from in order to take the appropriate action toward the feeling."

Two bands entertained the audience:

Contagious: David Jassy, singer; Paul Comaux, vocals; Kevin D. Sawyer, guitar; Lee Jaspar, keyboard; Darryl Farris, bass guitar; James Benson, drums; and John Holiday, congas.

Buzz Kill: Joey Mason, guitar and vocals; Richie Morris, lead vocals; Dwight Krizman, drums; Andrew Vance, rhythm guitar; and Darryl Farris, bass guitar.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

All smiles, good food and good company

Inner Peace Through Mind and Body

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Prisoners considering the relationship between mind, body and inner peace cannot take a review of James Fox and his concept of yoga lightly. Numerous studies show that the breathing techniques utilized by yoga help with relaxation and curb stress and negative impulses.

"I've given away about 10,000 of these," Fox said as he handed me his book *Yoga: A Path for Healing and Recovery*.

An Oxford University study cited by Douglas Quan of *Post-media News* found that inmates who went through a 10-week yoga program had moods that are more positive, "were less

stressed and performed better on a computer test of their impulse control."

"We're not saying that yoga will replace standard treatment of mental health conditions in prison. But what we do see are indications that this relatively cheap, simple option might have multiple benefits for prisoners' well-being and possibly aid in managing the burden of mental health problems in prisons," said Amy Bilderbeck, one of the Oxford study's lead researchers, in Quan's article.

"Yoga offers an alternative way of being with yourself and

the world. It represents a personal support system that if practiced regularly can provide you with an ongoing sense of balance, connectedness and inner peace. To heal the pain and suffering in the world requires us to heal our own pain and suffering, so we no longer unconsciously inflict pain and suffering on others," writes Fox in the introduction of *Yoga: A Path For Healing and Recovery*.

Fox teaches four yoga classes at San Quentin, one in H-Unit, one for veterans and two for the mainline. There is currently a waiting list for mainline par-

ticipation. "If I had more room, I'd open a new class tomorrow," Fox said.

All types of men come to Fox's weekly yoga classes at San Quentin. "Muslim, Christian, Native American, macho, mellow, buff, skinny, tattooed ... What they have in common are personal histories marked by trauma, substance abuse and violence, and — thanks to Fox — a commitment to yoga as a path of personal transformation," writes Valerie Reiss for *Yoga Journal*.

Fox's guide is easy to understand and all its terminology is

written clearly, using plain everyday language. Additionally, each pose is illustrated with instructions.

Many inspirational quotes from prisoners are included in the book.

One person said, "When I do yoga, I feel like I am surrounded by this field of positive energy and protected from the negative vibes of prison life." Another person wrote, "There are many ways that I have betrayed, harmed or abandoned myself through thought, word or deed, knowingly or unknowingly."

Readers of Fox's book get a practical course of action that will help him or her understand the nature of pain and the advantage of healing the mind and body through yoga.

BOOK REVIEW

A Celebration In My Imagination

An 'OG's' Perspective

The following guest column is by Larry Stiner Jr., the eldest son of Watani Stiner, the author of the O.G. column.

There's a celebration going on in my imagination. The house is filled with the sound of good soul music and the aroma of good soul food. Conversation among the many family members and friends evokes memories of fun times past. Laughter and more than a few tears of happiness highlight the joyfulness felt throughout the residence.

Taking it all in, I count four generations of our family tree as cellphone cameras capture the excitement. What is the special occasion? It's my father's homecoming. After five years in prison, an escape, two decades as a fugitive, a voluntary surrender and another 20 years of incarceration, my father is home. Yes, after a 45-year absence from true freedom, he is finally home. Well, at least that's what I am imagining just before his 10th hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings..

For the past five years, I have waited for the summer of 2014 to arrive. At last, it is here. Sixty months have crawled by since my father's last parole consideration hearing. And over that period of time, I have planned and prayed. I have strategized and wished. I have fought to hold on to the faith that now allows me to be cautiously optimistic that the results of this hearing will be different. On most days, I truly feel that my father's freedom is soon to come. But then there are those days when that dreaded voice of pessimism whispers words I struggle to ignore: "Don't be foolish. You know how this always turns out. He's not coming home."

Shaking my head in disagreement and blocking out memories of the prior nine hearings that all resulted in denials, I remind myself that

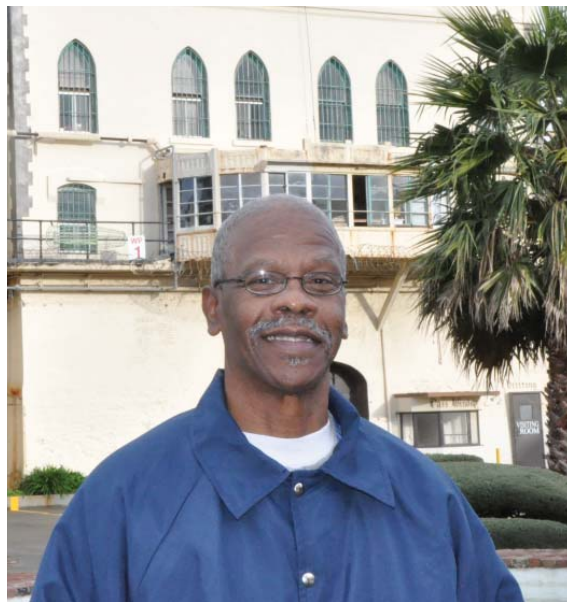


Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Watani Stiner

the climate is different this time around. There are new laws in place favoring more releases. The court has ordered a major reduction in the severely overcrowded prison population. "Lifers" in the state of California are leaving prison at a pace never before seen. Trusting the spirit of positivity, I ride the wave of supportive reasoning until I succeed in drowning out that negative voice. My thoughts race back to the celebration in my imagination...

Seated on the sofa, my father displays a heartwarming smile as he nods his head to an uplifting hit song from the 1960s. Dressed in a stylish tan-colored button-down shirt and a comfortable pair of brown slacks, he looks different in a good way. Wearing something other than the prison blues I'd become accustomed to seeing him in, he looks free. Next to him, my mother sits with her hand resting inside of his. I

see love. I also see joy on the faces of my much younger siblings who, since February 1994, have not spent a second

with our father outside of San Quentin's walls. They were all so young when he surrendered and returned to prison. But he's home now and all is right. Well, at least that's what I am imagining just before he sees the parole board for the 10th time.

All is in order as the hearing day approaches. My father has multiple housing options, employment offers and letters of support. His attorney has diligently prepared to show him worthy of parole. Guardedly, I am hopeful. On the eve of the big day, I receive numerous requests from family and friends wanting to be contacted as soon as I hear the results. I cannot fathom having to relay a negative message to anyone so I focus on the likelihood of a positive decision. Yes, this time will be different, I tell myself.

After one last sleepless night, the hearing day arrives with the brightness of a strong morning sun. The clock-watching begins as I try to go about my day as I normally would. It is not possible. I feel

more anxious with each passing minute. Time ticks and I wait. The clock moves and I anticipate. Finally, I hear the news: The hearing has been postponed. It has been pushed back for at least a few months due to a hearing panel member declaring a conflict of interest. The member says he was on the University of California, Los Angeles, campus as a student in 1969 when a shootout between rival Black Power organizations erupted, leaving two people dead and my father wounded and facing a conspiracy charge. Against my father's wishes, the hearing is delayed. The disappointment shortens my breath as I wonder why this conflict wasn't discovered until just before the hearing. Could not that person have excused himself before today? That whispering voice of pessimism tries to speak out but I quickly silence it. Though frustrated and saddened, I remind myself that a postponement is not a denial. Therefore, I reason, the celebration in my imagination hasn't been cancelled ... it's only been postponed. Unfortunately, a few months will seem like a lifetime to a family that's already been separated for what seems like a lifetime.

Executive Editor, Bill Keller Leaves New York Times For New Project

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

One of America's leading newspaper editors has left to join a new criminal justice reporting organization.

The former *New York Times* executive editor, Bill Keller, 65, leaves the newspaper to head up the *Marshall Project*.

"Bill has made so many contributions to the Times over his 30 years here, it's difficult to quantify them," said Arthur Sulzberger Jr., *Times* publisher and chief executive of its parent company.

Former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Neil Barsky cre-

ated the *Marshall Project*, the *Washington Post* reported. "The project is one of a number of digital-only news organizations that have formed in recent years outside of traditional media companies," the *Post* reported.

The *Post* said Keller had been working at the *Times* as a columnist since he stepped down as executive editor.

"The *Times* won 18 Pulitzer Prizes during Keller's eight-year tenure," the *Post* reported.

According to the *Post*, in the 1990s Keller reported on South Africa's "apartheid racial laws" as they began to crumble

and Nelson Mandela became president.

While Keller was an editor for the *Times*, it published "excerpts of sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic files." These documents were obtained from *WikiLeaks*, according to the *Post*.

In 2005 the *Times* reported on the George W. Bush administration's use of "warrantless wiretapping" of those suspected of being terrorists, the *Post* said.

Keller was the *Times* editor-in-chief from 2003 to 2011. He became executive editor following the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

National Science Foundation Honors Ashley Schappell

By Jarvis Juvan Clark
Journalism Guild Writer

The National Science Foundation has honored a renowned psychologist who once taught college classes at San Quentin by awarding her \$25,000 to research how violence affects inmates during incarceration.

Counseling and treatment for victims of prison violence should begin during their incarceration, and once released, community support services should give aftercare, according to Ashley Schappell, the award recipient.

"I think that she seemed very smart and highly motivated," said Dr. Jody Lewen, executive

of Prison University Project. "I find it very exciting to see her work getting this recognition, because I find her research question to be extremely important."

The affects of prison violence have received little attention by federal researchers, according to *Medical Press*, an online medical news source.

"We know that being exposed to violence and being victimized increases depression, anxiety and incidents of post-traumatic stress disorder," Schappell told *Rutgers Today*.

Inmates who are released after being incarcerated for long periods should get professional help from a psychologist or psychiatrist in order to successfully ease back into the community, according to Schappell.

"Prisoners who tend to be victimized are people that I see over and over again. They get released and they come back.

Some have been there their whole lives. Even though it's scary, it's all they know and they feel more comfortable there," said Schappell.

"As I learned more about the prison system and the injustices, it struck me as something that needed to be addressed. Even though they're inmates, they're human, and this is a human rights issue."

"The cost of failing to treat them (inmates) can be high, and if you don't think of their futures, we're all going to be paying for it," Schappell said.

Metta World Peace Visits San Quentin's GRIP Class

GRIP is about taking offenders and graduating them into servants of humankind

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

National Basketball Association veteran Metta World Peace, formerly known as Ron Artest, came into San Quentin and shared part of his life story with the men of GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power).

"My father was on psychiatric medication before I was born. After I was born, my father told my mother that he was on medication; however, she stuck with him even though he would hit her." He spoke quietly, yet clearly, to those in the room.

"I thought it was normal, for a man to hit a woman in the home, so at the time, I didn't realize how I was being affected. Just about everyone in my family was either in jail or a mental institution when I was growing up."

As World Peace opened up with his personal story, he walked about the room explaining his path to reach peace within himself.

"I want you to close your eyes and change the world. For whatever time it takes you to envision it, change the world. If you have tension in your body — your forehead, shoulders, wherever, just relax a little bit. Breathe slowly."

As the men and women in the room closed their eyes, World Peace spoke evenly, guiding the room through a brief meditation process.

"Focus on your goals," World Peace said. Some moments later, he followed with, "Now, slowly

come out at your own pace, as you feel like it."

GRIP is the brainchild of Jacques Verduin, who directs the program and invited World Peace to come in and speak. Verduin describes GRIP as a 17-year journey in seeking the right people and perfecting the curriculum. GRIP aims to take offenders and graduate them into servants of humankind.

"The Navajo believe that someone who has committed a crime is someone who is acting as if he or she has no family, no relatives," Verduin states. "In that sense, a crime is an inarticulate plea for help. So part of the solution is to create a context where we relate to each other to heal the pain of feeling alien-

ated."

The program consists of four components that are central to the process:

- Stopping the violence and committing no harm
- Developing emotional intelligence
- Cultivating mindfulness
- Understanding victim impact

"In the process of healing, the person not only learns how to rehabilitate, but also becomes someone who's able to give back to the community," said Verduin.

The stories told by World Peace confirmed Verduin's theories. The famous athlete went on to speak about his time with the Indiana Pacers and the angry

encounter in the stands that led him to being suspended from the NBA.

"The situation while I was with the Pacers, when I went into the stands, I ended up blaming everyone else for what happened to me. It was confusing at the time. However, years later, I called the person that I went after. It turned out that he had his own personal problems that he was dealing. Now? We're friends," said World Peace.

He spoke about his time with the Los Angeles Lakers; how then head coach Phil Jackson helped him channel his anger by introducing him to Zen Buddhism.

"When I got to the Los Angeles Lakers, Coach Phil Jackson

— the 'Zen Master' — had a team that had several huge egos and personalities. He had to meld all these personalities into a cohesive unit. He used Zen teachings and meditations to allow us to see things in a way that, I personally, hadn't even thought about," World Peace told the men of GRIP.

"Coach Jackson influenced me in so many ways. He's part of the reason I follow Buddhist teachings."

"When I arrived, there were different agendas inside the locker room. We were like different gangs playing in the same jersey. Coach Jackson taught us how to put everything aside that didn't have a thing to do with achieving the goal and to focus on the same thing. Obviously it worked because, as a coach, he has 13 rings," World Peace said with a smile.

"I was always tense; however, Buddhism has helped me to identify those moments when I am tense and to transfer those negative feelings into positive energy."

After leaving the GRIP meeting, World Peace went to the basketball court and played a couple of games with several San Quentin inmates.

"Man I just played a four-on-four with Ron Artest (World Peace)! Can you believe that!" said one inmate who also plays in the San Quentin Intramural Basketball League.

"He's like a regular dude, you know. He has the same type of issues that I have," said another inmate after watching the game.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Metta World Peace shoots over the defense of Bernard Moss

Musician Mark Hummel Provides Advice and Entertainment to the Men in Blue

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The blues harmonica is not heard often in modern society's pop music. The prison subculture is no exception, but that did not hinder harmonica blues man Mark Hummel, 58, from performing and discussing music with about two dozen inmates on a recent visit to San Quentin State Prison.

During the two-hour performance, Hummel talked about the blues and provided instruction on the various techniques used to play the harmonica, such as tongue blocking to play chords and octaves.

Hummel is one of hundreds of musicians who work with the organization Bread and Roses, founded 40 years ago by the late Mimi Farina, sister of Joan

Baez.

Lisa Starbird, who came in with Hummel and described herself as the organization's "queen of logistics," said Bread and Roses takes about 50 live musical performances each month to rehabilitation centers, convalescent homes, detention centers or shelters for the homeless or at-risk kids in the Bay Area who otherwise have little opportunity for entertainment.

"I've been lucky. Music is my number one thing. I hope that comes through when I play," Hummel told the men. "To me, music in general is all about rhythm. The main thing I do is the tongue block. Tonguing is a lot harder than lipping."

Inmates asked dozens of questions about the blues, harmonica playing and the music business. Hummel answered each of their

questions. He said music is "a real survivor's game ... if you keep your eyes on that prize, you'll get through it."

"A big part of what I do is, I'm constantly listening to music," Hummel said. "I'm still really into blues harmonica."

Hummel said he learned to play by ear, listening to records and all kinds of music. "I started in high school listening to Cream, Jimi Hendrix, Paul Butterfield, John Mayfield," and others, he told the class.

Hummel said he enjoys playing slow so he can "dig into the notes better," adding, "B.B. King takes his time with vibrato."

Among the many songs Hummel played for the inmates was "Señor Blues" in the key of C, by Horace Silver.

Kurt Huget, who teaches a Thursday night guitar class, ac-

companied Hummel on several tunes, such as "When I Woke Up This Morning" by Jimmy Reed. Hummel also sang on this song. "That's one of my favorites," he told the men. Later he played "The Blues Is Here to Stay," by Eddie Boyd.

Aside from his musical talent, Hummel acknowledged he has some business knowledge and organization skills. With more than 20 albums under his belt, Hummel expects to have another new recording ready this year.

"This is a great room for playing harmonica," said Hummel, referring to the Arts and Corrections room, where the bands typically rehearse, as he showed the men the various types of microphones he used for playing.

Hummel also brought up less public aspects of his past. He

spoke honestly with the men about his struggles with addiction. He said that he has been drug and alcohol free for 29 years.

"You're one of the best audiences I've played for," said Hummel, after a round of applause from the men sitting at tables.

According to his biography on Wikipedia, Hummel was born in New Haven, Conn. He is described as an American blues harmonica player, a vocalist, songwriter and long-time bandleader of "The Blues Survivors."

Hummel's professional career began in the early 1970s when he moved to San Francisco. He is the founder of the Blues Harmonica Blowout tour that he has produced since the early 1990s. It features a lineup of veteran harmonica players.

S.F. Bay View: Organization Helps Former Inmates Regain Their Rights and Participation in Communities

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Efforts are under way to help former prisoners regain rights and participation in their communities.

Leading the effort is Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC). It has established a policy academy to increase civic participation by formerly incarcerated people, both locally and statewide, reports *San Francisco Bay View*.

"We must ensure our voices are heard in the hallways of

government as well as on the street," declared LSPC Executive Director Dorsey Nunn.

This was the theme shared in a training program by 50 people at the Watts Labor Center in Los Angeles in February.

Nunn said he and several community organizers "wanted to frame public policy work as an additional important way to fight for the ones we love. Unfortunately, it is also a method we don't use often enough."

"The day gave important background on mass incarceration and its disproportionate

impact on communities of color, as well as information about legislative advocacy, community organizing and the California legislative process," the newspaper reported.

In addition, "Two role-playing sessions – a legislative meeting and a committee hearing – gave attendees a chance to enact what they were learning."

"As a formerly incarcerated black man who has been struggling for over 40 years, I recognize that my status as a formerly incarcerated per-

son oppresses me as much as the status of black people oppressed them during slavery or the Jim Crow eras," Nunn said.

The incarceration rate per 100,000 is six to 10 times that of whites and three to four times that of Latinos, Nunn said. "I am more likely to be assaulted or murdered. The system comes for me more often than others and I am not only incarcerated but also disempowered, then and now," he added.

"I know that, as a result of our conviction histories, \$57

billion to \$65 billion in earning and spending will be lost to the community," Dunn said.

To advance a public policy agenda, Dunn and the organizers said, "We need to establish an apparatus to train formerly incarcerated people, their families and loved ones, so we can develop a more effective approach to lobbying and advocacy."

According to Dunn, there are "Over 40,000 policies nationally precluded our reentry and the full and equal restoration of our rights."

S.F. 49ers Tour San Quentin and Gain Insight From Prisoners

Continued from Page 1

age the young players, ranging from ages 20 to 23 years old, to make smart choices that keep them out of trouble and playing ball, according to Smith.

The players and coaches met with inmates who participate in various self-help programs.

The inmates reminded the rookies that a phone call could end a career, and a house party gone wrong can lead to a jail sentence. They urged the visitors to take advantage of the opportunity to develop, not just into professional football players, but

"Most of the people I played with back in high school are now retiring from the league," said inmate Royce Rose, starting quarterback for the San Quentin All-Madden flag football team. Rose said as a teen he was a top 50 athlete in California.

The visiting players and coaches then broke into small discussion groups with the inmates to talk about the self-help, rehabilitative and educational opportunities at San Quentin.

"There are over 70 programs geared toward 'restorative justice' and rehabilitation at San Quentin," said inmate Sam Hearnese. "But,

security over you."

Hearnese asked the players and coaches why they thought prisons are necessary in society.

"To modify behavior," said 49er veteran safety C.J. Spillman. "Prison seems like an adult version of 'time-out,'" added 49er rookie running back Carlos Hyde.

"I used to be you," said inmate Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to Hyde.

"I played D-1 ball for seven years as a professional," Thompson-Bonilla is a graduate of Ohio State University and a former Canadian Football League Grey Cup Champion for the Toronto Argonauts in 1986.

Next, the visitors walked the Lower Yard, where they met and conversed with hundreds of inmates. The inmates gave the players and coaches a round of applause and shouts of encouragement.

Shortly thereafter, an institutional alarm was sounded, requiring all inmates to be seated in place. Head coach of the 49ers Jim Harbaugh took the time to sign autographs and shake hands with inmates seated on the ground.

"I want to thank all the men that spoke to me. I learned a lot today," said 49er offensive lineman Marcus Martin. "I met someone who grew up around the corner from where I grew up. That's deep."

"Awesome experience," said rookie Trey Millard as the tour ended. "I've never been to a prison before. I always wanted to see this one."

—Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story



Coach Harbaugh shakes hands while institutional alarm goes off



Coach Harbaugh autographs "Little Joe's" hat

also into role models.

"I played with Curtis Conway [former NFL wide receiver] at Hawthorne High School," said inmate Kevin Carr. "Now he's retired while I've been in prison."

when I first came to prison, people were separated by race. Walking into another group's area could mean life or death. Just taking a walk to the toilet or stopping to tie your shoe meant having someone place



Lt. Robinson standing in front of the old SQ dungeon explaining its history

Forty Niner Rookies:	
Jimmy Ward DB	Shane Skov LB
James McCray S	Ken Acker CB
Chris Borland LB	Asante Cleveland TE
Kaleb Ramsey DT	Bruce Ellington WR
Dillon Farrell OL	Marcus Martin OL
Brandon Thomas OL	Kory Faulkner QB
Fouimalo Fonoti OL	Kevin Greene TE
Keith Reaser CB	Carlos Hyde RB
Donte` Johnson CB	Aaron Lynch LB
Trey Millard FB	



49er players inside the old SQ dungeon

2011 Annual Homicide Rate Lowest Since 1963

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Homicides, nationwide, continue to decline and now occur at the lowest annual rate since 1963, reports the U.S. Department of Justice.

Using data from 2011, the most recent year available from the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports*, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) examined homicide trends from 1992 to 2011, with selected findings from 1960.

"The rate of homicides in the United States declined by 49 percent, from 9.3 homicides per 100,000 residents in 1992 to 4.7 in 2011," reported BJS statisticians Erica L. Smith and Alexia Cooper.

RATE

The rate of homicides for males was 3.6 times higher than for females from 1992 to 2011. But according to the BJS report, both sexes experienced similar declines in their overall rates of homicides during the 20-year period. From 1992 to 2011, the murder rate declined by half for both males (50 percent) and females (49 percent).

The homicide rate among blacks declined by 19 percent from 21.2 per 100,000 in 2002 to 17.3 in 2011. "Persons of other races – persons identified as American Indian,

Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander – experienced the greatest decline (down 33 percent), from 2.7 homicides per 100,000 persons in 2002 to 1.8 in 2011," according to the report.

Even though the homicide rate for blacks declined during this period, it was 6.3 times higher than the rate for whites. During the same period, the report found that the murder rate among whites decreased by 17 percent, down from 3.3 per 100,000 in 2002 to 2.8 in 2011.

"The peak homicide victimization rate for black males was nearly nine times higher than the peak rate for white males," the report highlights. "The magnitude of the homicide rate for males varied by age and race, although the patterns by age among black and white males were similar."

In the report, "The homicide victimization rate for both white and black males increased after age 14 and into the early 20s, although with dramatically different trajectories."

White male murders peaked at age 20 (11.4 homicides per 100,000), while the homicide rate for black males peaked at age 23 (100.3 homicides per 100,000).

Another interesting statistics shown in the report: The

highest murder rate for black males was nearly nine times higher than the highest rate for white males. After peaking for victims in their early 20s, the murder rate for both white and black males declined with age. The murder rate for black males 60 years or older was four times more than for white males in the same age group.

VICTIMS

Thirty was the median age of murder victims in 2011. One section in the report shows, "Half of all murder victims were age 30 or younger and half were age 30 or older."

From 2002 to 2011, young adults ages 18 to 24 had the highest homicide rate of any age group. "Young adults also experienced the largest homicide rate decline (down 22 percent), from 15.2 per 100,000 in 2002 to 11.9 in 2011," according to the report.

One unique statistic reported by Smith and Cooper was "The homicide victimization rate for females was higher during the first year of life."

During a 10-year period from 2002 to 2011, "Females younger than age one had a higher murder rate than females of any other age group." In the report, the homicide rate for females younger than age one was four and a half homicides per 100,000 for

white females and 10.3 per 100,000 for black females.

The murder rates for black and white females followed similar trends as with male homicide victims across the same age group. According to the report, "The average homicide rate for black females was over three times higher than the rate for white females."

The report revealed that female homicides for both races increased substantially after the age of 11. The murder rate for white females age 11 or older was greatest for ages 20 to 31, with an average homicide rate of 2.8 per 100,000.

The murder rate for black females age 11 or older was highest for those aged 21 to 26 with an average homicide rate of 11.4 per 100,000. In the report of the two statisticians, the peak rate for black females age 11 or older was four times higher than the peak rate for white females age 11 or older.

The two statisticians reported, "Homicide rates among black and white females declined with age after age 30. Among victims age 60 or older, black females experienced a homicide rate that was approximately two times higher than the rate for white females."

The murder rates among the elderly provided some interesting statistics. In the report, the rate remained stable

among white females age 75 or older, while the homicide rate among black females age 75 or older increased from 2.2 homicides per 100,000 for persons age 75 to 3.6 per 100,000 for those age 83.

FIREARM VIOLENCE

Both the FBI and the Centers for Disease and Prevention collected statistics on the percentage of victims killed by a firearm.

The rate of murder involving a firearm declined by half from 1992 to 2011 for both males and females. Over the same period, the percentage of male and female murders committed with a firearm changed very slightly.

In both 1992 and 2011, firearms were reportedly used in 73 percent of all murders of males and in 49 percent of females, with minor fluctuations during the time.

"Handguns were more commonly involved in homicides than other types of firearms," according to the report. These weapons were used in an average of 57 percent of male homicides and 35 percent of female homicides.

Other types of firearms, such as rifles, shotguns and firearms of unknown types, were used to murder 16 percent of male homicide victims and 13 percent of females from 1992 to 2011.

Asked On The Line

Prisoners Describe the First Job They Ever Had

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The summer month of July has interesting celebrations. The World Almanac reports July is Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month and Women's Motorcycle Month.

For members of the Catholic faith, the Feast of Saint Ignatius is on Thursday, July 31. However, the most celebrated day in July for most people in the United States is the Fourth of July and this year, Independence Day landed on a Friday.

Moving from dependence or codependence to independence is a major step toward maturity. But mature and intelligent adults also know that life is easier and more enjoyable when people cooperate. They know that moving from independence to interdependence demonstrates the greatest maturity of all. Maya Angelou said, "Nobody but nobody can make it out here alone."

At some point in life, most adults make that first major step from being dependent or codependent to being independent and go out into the world to fend for themselves.

In honor of what it means to be independent, "Asked On the Line" conducted brief informal interviews with 18 men on the mainline and asked: "What was the first

job that you ever had and how old were you? At what age did you leave home and what type of job did you have when you left?"

Many of the men in blue left home at a very young age.

Pedro Espinal's first job was delivering groceries. "I was only 12 years old," said Espinal. "I did that until I was 18 and then I enlisted in the Navy. I left home to go serve in the U.S. Navy."

"I left home when I was 17 and enlisted with the United States Marine Corps"

Rudy Walker got his first job when he was 15. "I worked the fish counter at an Asian food market," said Walker. "I left my parent's home the following year when I was 16 while still working there."

Quinton Walker said, "I was 18 years old when I got my first job as a security guard. When I was 19, I left home and quit my job to enlist in the Navy."

Stan Baer and Kevin Valvardi were both just 9 years old when they started their first jobs. Both of them were paperboys. "I left home when I was 17 and enlisted with the

United States Marine Corps," said Baer. "I left home when I was 18 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy," said Valvardi.

Danny Ho's first job was in electronics assembly. "I was 19 years old when I started working and I left home the following year," said Ho.

Rafael Cuevas was 18 when he got his first job in construction. "I left home that same year while I was working in construction," said Cuevas.

Jose Luis Flores was 19 when he got his first job. "I was a busboy at Sizzler's," said Flores. "I did not live with my parents. I and all of my siblings were sharing a home until I was 20 years old before I left to live on my own."

Tim Goins was 15 when he got his first job laying television cable. He made enough money to leave home that same year.

Forrest Jones was 17 when he got his first job working in a city recreation department. "I left home when I was 27 while I was working in a pharmacy," said Jones.

Jesus Flores was 15 when he got his first job working at Kmart. "I got my first job working part-time as a stock boy," said Flores. "I left home when I was 18 and I was working at Domino's Pizza."

Terrell Allen was 12 years old when he got his first job mowing lawns in his neighborhood. "I left home when I

was 17. I was working for the Foot Locker at the mall."

Richard Latham got his first job as a nursing assistant when he was 18. He had left his parent's home the year before when he was 17 and unemployed.

Bo Segsavang was 13 when he got his first job delivering newspapers. When he decided to leave his parent's home, he was 16 and he was unemployed.

Paul Chen was 19 when he got his first paycheck in graduate school. In China, graduate students got paid to be in school. "They got rid of academic pay in China in 2013. When I was 21 and attending UCLA, I got paid to assist teaching assistants as a 'Reader,'" said Chen. Chen left his parent's home to come to the United States and attend college.

Miguel Saldana got his first job at a printing shop when he was 14. He would later leave his parent's home when he was 21 while working at a shoe store.

Antoine Brown never had a job before his incarceration. "I never had no job on the streets. I left home when I was 15 'cause I came to the prison," said Brown.

James Mays was only 12 when he started working in construction. He left his parents' home the following year while still working in construction.

San
Quentin
News

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1. Boston — The Massachusetts high court has struck down mandatory life sentencing for two juvenile offenders, Joseph Donovan, 38, and Frederick Christian, 37. They are scheduled to have parole hearings, reports *The Associated Press*. Donovan and Christian are among 63 inmates serving juvenile life without parole sentences in the state. They were convicted of felony murder at age 17. Neither was convicted of the actual killing.

2. Cincinnati — Of the 103 homicides in the greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky regions in 2013, 86 were committed in Cincinnati (75) and Hamilton County outside the city (11), reports *Gannett*. The city’s 75 murders in 2013 “represent a significant increase over the 53 homicides recorded in the city in 2012.”

3. Denver — Colorado Corrections Department Executive Director Rick Raemisch said he suffered mental anguish after spending 20 hours in solitary confinement to see what it was like, reports *The Wichita Eagle*. He said the experience left him “feeling twitchy and paranoid.”

4. Sacramento — Elwood Lui has been named a compliance officer tasked to make decisions on which inmates to release if California fails to meet a court-ordered inmate population cap for the state prison system, reports *The Los Angeles Times*.

5. Denver—Police Chief Robert



White said that since recreational marijuana sales became legal last November, the police have cited about one person per day for public pot smoking, reports *The Denver Post*.

6. Helena — A nationwide survey shows Montana has one of the highest rates of rapes and sexual assaults in its prison system, reports the *Billings Gazette*. However, state corrections of-

ficials are disputing the report’s methodology.

7. Harrisburg, Pa. — Mental health services in the state’s 26 prisons is a serious issue, according to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*. Twenty-one percent of state prison inmates —more than 10,000 people —receive mental health services, according to department statistics. State prison officials have issued a \$91 million

contract to a Virginia-based firm for services that have “incentives to reduce the number of misconducts for mentally ill offenders, reduce the number of inmates re-committed to mental health units and lower the number of commitments to prison residential treatment units,” according to a department statement.

8. New York — Pay for Success is a new program designed

to reduce recidivism or repeat offending by increasing training and employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals, reports *The Citizen*. The project began last December and “is providing services to 2,000 formerly incarcerated individuals who are considered high risks for reoffending.”

9. New York — The New York Civil Liberties Union says the state has become the largest prison system in the U.S. to ban the use of disciplinary confinement for minors, reports *The New York Times*.

10. Washington, D.C. — The nation’s high court has ruled “states can no longer rely on a fixed IQ score cutoff to decide intellectual competency” in death penalty cases, reports *The New York Times*. Nationwide, about 30 Death Row inmates are affected by the ruling.

11. Jackson, Miss. — East Mississippi Correctional Facility, a privately run state prison, has been plagued by problems, reports *The New York Times*. Erica Goode reports, “When a previous private operator, the GEO Group, left in 2012 after complaints to the state about squalor and lack of medical treatment, hopes rose that conditions would improve. But two years later, advocates for inmates assert that little has changed under the current operator, Management and Training Corporation, a Utah-based company.”

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Education Dept. / SQ News
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San Quentin, CA 94964

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The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

Sudoku Corner

4		7	2		1		8	9
	1	3	8					
9						1		
		9			2			5
2				4				3
8			9			7		
		6						8
					7	5	6	
5	3		6		9			1

	8	6	2			9		7
9						8	5	
		1						4
8		5	4					
	7		8		6		4	
					2	7		1
6						2		
	5	9						8
2		8				1	7	

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

2	5	3	9	6	4	7	8	1
7	4	6	1	5	8	9	2	3
1	8	9	3	7	2	6	4	5
6	1	4	8	2	9	3	5	7
3	9	7	4	1	5	2	6	8
5	2	8	6	3	7	4	1	9
9	7	1	2	8	6	5	3	4
4	3	2	5	9	1	8	7	6
8	6	5	7	4	3	1	9	2

9	4	1	7	2	8	5	6	3
3	5	8	6	1	4	9	7	2
7	2	6	5	3	9	8	4	1
8	1	4	3	7	2	6	9	5
2	3	9	4	6	5	7	1	8
5	6	7	9	8	1	2	3	4
4	8	2	1	9	6	3	5	7
1	9	3	8	5	7	4	2	6
6	7	5	2	4	3	1	8	9

Snippets

Port of Boston now closed for shipping goods. The Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, which closed down the port until the damaged tea was paid for by the colony.

One hot ash still burning left half a population homeless in The Great Fire of London.

On Oct. 31, 1923 to April 27, 1924 Marble Bar, Western Australia burned 160 straight days with the temperature at 100 degree or higher.

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the World by area, according to Guinness World Records 2007.

Palpitating up to 40 beats per minute in the summer waters, the average turtle’s heart rate slows once every ten minutes in the cold winter waters.

Armed force free Iceland, declared itself a nuclear-free zone in 1985.

Reaching more than 3,500,000 square miles is the Sahara Desert. It’s the second largest desert in the world.

The Half Way to Hell Club were the 19 men whose lives were saved by the nets underneath the Golden Gate Bridge during its construction.

You probably did not know that the expression “speakeasy” was a code that was yelled through a door to buy and sell prohibited alcohol.

SPORTS

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

Three track records fell at the 1000 Mile Club's recent relay races.

The 4x200m fell first. Eric Nelson, Leroy Lucas, Tone "Barefoot Tone" Evans and John Willie Windham ran a 1:47.42, smashing the old record of 1:49, set in 2012. Two races later, the same team set a new record in the 4x100 at 47:04. The team of Abel Armengal, Oscar Aguilar, Jesus Sanchez and Jose Sandoval challenged the record breakers in both races on May 30.

"We want to give an extra shout out to our competitors today," said Windham. "We were trying to break records after we found out the first one fell. So, we pushed ourselves to get it done."

The Distance Medley tumbled next. Runners Miguel Quezada, Clifton Williams, Carlos Ramirez and Eddie Herena ran a brisk 13:19.99 to

break the record of 14:22, set in 2012.

A Distance Medley consists of the first runner going three-quarters of a mile, the second runner a quarter-mile, the third runner a half-mile and the final runner going for

a mile.

In the last race of the day, Evans, Windham and Nelson added Quezada to their team. They were going for a fourth record in the 4 x1¼ mile;

however, they missed the time by seven seconds. Chris Scull, Sergio Castillo, Marlon Beason and Alberto Mendez came in third.

"After knocking down

those other records, we tried for a third. We all were a little tired," Evans said, laughing while catching his breath.

The day started with the 4x1 mile relay. The winning team consisting of Quezada, Bernard "Abdu'l Rahiym" Ballard, Eric "Abdu'l Wahid" Moody and Chris Cole They ran a total time of 23:52. Second were Morceli Abdu'l Khadeer, Eric Nelson, Edward "Wakil" Scott and Marlon Beason in 26:50.

"We want to thank our coaches for showing up," said Lucas, smiling. "Aye Coach! Come over and take this picture with us! We got the record!" Lucas shouted to Frank Ruona and Kevin Rumon.

Nelson also scored 47 official points to propel his team, Net Zero, past The Franchise in overtime, 80-77. There was disagreement over whether he broke a record with his performance.



1000 Mile relay runners posing with sponsors

Net Zero Defeat the Franchise in Overtime, 80 - 77

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Erick Nelson and Floyd Ray Jr. combined for 15 points in overtime to lead Net Zero to an 80-77 win over The Franchise in a San Quentin Intramural Basketball League game. Nelson scored eight of his total 47 points and Ray Jr. hit for seven of 12 in the extra period.

"It was a team accomplishment," Nelson humbly said after the game.

"He really scored 49 and broke the league record of 41 that was held by Sweet Pea," said Net Zero coach Aaron "The Jeddii" Taylor. The scorekeepers only had Nelson for 47, but several observers claimed they failed to record a basket.

Orlando Harris remembers Paul "Sweet Pea" Davidson scored 41 points in 2013 with his team, The Battleship. Daniel Wright said he and Sweet Pea have had 50-point games.

In overtime, Nelson started

hot, hitting a three-pointer. The Franchise's Harry "ATL" Smith countered with an answering three. On the next play, Franchise Marcus "Lunch Pail" Cosby hit a basket for a temporary lead that Ray Jr. erased with a hook shot.

Then Nelson dribbled past defenders to make a shovel layup. After Cosby assisted Donte "Cornbread" Smith on an inside bucket, Nelson dribbled past H. Smith for another layup, leaving the score 75-73. The Franchise answered, but failed to stop Ray Jr. as he scored his team's next four

points, putting Net Zero up four at 79-75 with 19 seconds left.

Harry "ATL" Smith grabbed an offensive rebound and laid up the ball to bring The Franchise within two with 10 seconds left.

The Franchise fouled Nelson to stop the clock. He made one free throw, leaving the score 80-77. With five seconds left, Franchise sharpshooter Derrick "The Helicopter" Loud went up with a three-point attempt that missed. Smith got the rebound but missed as time expired with the Net Zero up three in the May 25 contest.

Net Zero achieved the win short-handed. Referee Ishmael Freelon ejected one of their best players, Michael "The Option" Franklin, after a second technical foul five minutes into the game. The score went back and forth with several ties and no major leads until Franklin's ejection.

"I wasn't worried," said Nelson.

Thereafter, The Franchise pulled ahead. However, Nelson brought his team back and hit a huge three-pointer to take the game into overtime at 65-65.

"He (Nelson) showed up big

time today. He told me pre-game we just have to (play our best) ball and he did. The whole team made some good decisions - Cancun, D2, the whole team," said Franklin.

H. Smith finished with 30 points, 24 rebounds, two assists, two steals and two blocks; D. Smith added 14 points and 12 rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block - both for The Franchise.

"We didn't go wrong; they just played a better game," said H. Smith about the loss. "I'm just honored to be a part of this league. It's a good league," he added.

Sports Roundup: Baseball, Basketball and Tennis

BASEBALL

The San Quentin A's won their first game against the Cubs; Anthony "T-Tone" Bernard shut out the Cubs, 6-0, on May 14.

The Giants blew out The Mission baseball team, 12-3, on May 17.

Isaiah RaHeem Thompson-Bonilla pitched the A's to victory over the Barons, 11-1. Chris Marshall hit a two-run homer.

The Giants defeated the visiting REBL Giants on June 5.

The A's redeemed themselves against the Barons, winning 10-7 on June 7.

SOFTBALL

The Hardtimers destroyed the North Bay Bombers, 29-1. Bomber Lori Carter was hit in the face when a grounder took a sudden bounce, but was OK despite a speed knot on her forehead.

BASKETBALL

The Green Team defeated the Warriors (75-64) and the Kings (68-65) in back-to-back games. Chris "The Executioner" Blees led the Green Team with 24 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists

and 1 steal.

Patrick "Low Post" Lacey led against the Kings with 27, 10, 2, 1 and 2 blocks on May 17.

The Warriors defeated Imago Dei, 84-65. Ammons led the Warriors with 17, 7, 2, 2 and a block; three-point specialist Steve Diekmann's of Imago Dei scored 35 points on May 24.

The Warriors defeated Imago Dei again on May 31, 100-65. Harry "ATL" Smith scored 24 points.

The Green Team swept the Warriors and Kings in back-to-back games. Led by Evan Fjeld, they defeated the Warriors, 79-66, and Kings, 67-39. Fjeld had 21 and 15 the first game; Chris Blees added 19 and 11 with 6 assists. Fjeld had 32 and 23, with 3 assists, 6 steals and 2 blocks in the second; Lacey added 17. Smith had 20 and 11 for the Warriors, followed by Ammons' 19-11, 2 assists, 6 steals and 1 block on June 7.

INTRAMURAL LEAGUE

The Franchise beat the 76ers, 69-54. Harry "ATL" Smith led the Franchise with 18, 10 on May 18.

The Transformers beat Straight Balling, 89-61. "Pep" Williams led the Transformers with 29, 9, 8, 1 steal, 1 block; Jason Robinson snatched 27 rebounds and 4 points.

Net Zero defeated the Bad News Ballers, 57-53. Michael "The Option" Franklin of Net Zero led all scorers with 25, 12, 5 and 2 steals on May 18.

On May 25, Go Get It destroyed The Bad News Ballers, 87-49. Allan "Dark Man X" McIntosh led Go Get It with 36, 10, 1, 3 steals and 2 blocks.

The Transformers smashed the 76ers, 92-71. "Pep" Williams led the Transformers with 26, 6, 2; Boo Robinson had 16, 20, 2. Walker led the 76ers with 32, 6, 1, 2 steals and 11 turnovers.

Net Zero defeated Straight Balling, 69-43. Franklin dropped 21, 16, 1 and 3 steals. Ruben "Game Tight" Harper led SB with 16, 3, 1 and 5 steals on May 26.

The Franchise squashed the 76ers, 67-41. Anthony "½ Man ½ Amazing" Ammons led The Franchise with 18, 5, 2, 6 steals and 3 blocks.

The Transformers remained

undefeated, beating Go Get It 58-49. In the loss, McIntosh led Go Get It with 25, 13 and 4 steals.

On June 8, Go Get It lost to Net Zero, 69-62, led by Franklin's 27 points, 9 boards, 3 assists, 4 steals and a block. The Franchise smashed the Bad News Ballers, 71-38, led by Kenneth Dozier's 17 and 6. Asey scored 20 for BNB. Straight Balling remained winless with a 32-25 loss to the 76ers.

CBL HALF COURT LEAGUE

Pacific Rim defeated San Fernando Valley/Riverside, 40-29. Satinder "7" Singh led Pacific Rim with 10, 8 and 2 assists.

INSIDE TENNIS TEAM NEWS

ITT's Alleyne/Hunt defeated visitors Charley/Todd 4-3; Thompson/Harris lost to Rose Prada (a 4.5 National Player) and Todd, 4-3; N. Young/T. Slaughter lost to Todd/Greg 2-4; Thompson/Calix beat Charlie/Brooks, 4-3 on May 17.

—By Harun Taylor and Rahsaan Thomas



Floyd Ray Jr.'s hookshot

Pacifics Return With Bill Lee in 19-4 Victory

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Former major league pitcher Bill Lee helped the visiting San Rafael Pacifics to a 19-4 victory over the San Quentin All-Stars.

“The game was closer than it looks. Throw out the ninth inning,” said Lee. He was pointing out that the Pacifics led only 6-4 at the bottom of the eighth inning.

It was a mound battle between Lee and a cast of other Pacifics pitchers against All-Stars pitcher Jeff “Dewey” Dumont. Despite six errors, the All-Star squad – composed of Giants and A’s team members – put up a good fight until things fell apart in the ninth inning, when the Pacifics blew open a bottom-of-the-eighth two-point lead.

Lee played for the Boston Red Sox for 10 years and four for the Expos. He had 112 career wins, the third all time for a Red Sox lefty. He started games two and seven in the 1975 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

“It’s always good when you can put your talent up against professionals and see how you measure up. After four innings, we’re measuring up well,” said Lt. Sam Robinson mid-game.

“For eight innings it was a close game; I’m proud of my team,” said All-Star Anthony “T-Tone” Denard.

The All-Stars planned to have Dumont pitch for all or most of the innings to improve on last year’s Pacifics match. The 2013 game was close until the fourth inning, when they switched Dumont out and things went badly for every pitcher after him. The Pacifics won that game, 17-3.

“The same team this year, but a better philosophy: That’s ride Dewey until the wheels fall off,” said teammate Chris Deragon.

“We’ll take the pitcher, if he pitches like he did last year,” said Pacifics Manager Danny DiPace about Dumont. The L.A. Dodgers signed DiPace, a New York native, out of high school. The Dodgers put him in the minors and then the

Sponsor Dipsea Champ

By **Aaron Taylor**
Sports Writer

San Quentin volunteer Diana Fitzpatrick became a repeat winner in the Dipsea Race in nearby Mill Valley.

Fitzpatrick volunteers with the prison’s 1000 Mile Track Club. She finished the 7.5-mile Dipsea on June 8 in actual time of 1:03:21. Her clock time with a 16-minute handicap was 47:21.

“Winning the Dipsea is the



Kevin Rumon, Angel Gutierrez, Ronnie Goodman, Diana Fitzpatrick, Bill Pillars, Alton McSween and Frank Ruona



San Rafael Pacifics poses with the San Quentin All-Stars

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Minnesota Twins picked him up. Now he just coaches the Pacifics, an independent professional baseball team.

The event had all the fanfare of any normal major league extravaganza. The S.Q. Honor Guard presented the colors, while Larry “Popeye” Faizon blew the national anthem on his horn. Lt. Robinson bounced the opening pitch into the dirt in front of the plate.

The Pacifics had their podcasters doing the play-by-play for pacificbaseball.com, while San Quentin’s Aaron “The Jeddii” Taylor did the play-by-play for the crowd. Steve Allen, who calls himself the silent owner, watched his team proudly from the sidelines, as did self-proclaimed “San Quentinite” Lt. Robinson.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re playing when both teams are just as passionate about it. It means the world,” said Pacifics pitcher Dan Rogers.

The 67-year-old Lee shut the All-Stars out for the first two innings with fastballs, screwballs and circle changes that he throws out of the same motion as his fastball.

As for staying active, Lee said, “Never take any year off. A body at rest stays at rest; a body in motion stays in motion — second law of thermal dynamics.” Lee’s uniform and hat are in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

highlight for my career and life,” said Fitzpatrick. “Running is so much about community, and we’re all in the same family when it comes to running.”

Also finishing the race were paroled former San Quentin and 1000 Mile members Ronnie Goodman, Alton McSween, Bill Pillars and Angel Gutierrez. Their actual times were 1:15:31, 2:26:08, 1:56:01 and 1:18:07, respectively.

“Lee is a gamer. He’s eternal youth. Mentally, he’s like us; he loves this game as much as us,” said Rogers.

In the first inning, the Pacifics had two men on base with two outs. Eric Bainer cracked a shot deep into the outfield that was caught by Denard, stopping any runs.

Top of two, Lee hit a RBI single with a shot down the first base line.

“We have a 14-year big leaguer and he’s batting with a hat in the back of his pants; you see something new every day,” clowned Rogers.

Evan Boyd followed with a single that made the score 2-0 Pacifics.

At the bottom of the second, Dumont banged Lee for a ground-rule double that bounced over the Indian Grounds fence. However, Dumont was stranded on base.

In the third, the Pacifics loaded the bases with two outs starting when Bainer knocked a double along the right field line. Then Matt Kavanaugh walked and Charlie Stewart smashed a single down the left field line. Chris Rice worked Dumont to a full count and was awarded a walk that brought in a run, making the score 3-0 Pacifics. The inning ended with three runners stranded when Lee hit the ball back to Dumont for the throw out at first.

“We’re good. It’s early,” said All-Star Christopher “Cuddy Bo” Smith, maintaining confidence in his team.

In the bottom of the third, the Pacific replaced Lee at the mound with Rogers, who the All-Stars were able to get on top of. Chris Marshall led off a double in the gap. John Windham followed with another double to left field that brought in Marshall. Then Windham stole third.

“The pitching change is good for us. He’s pitching at our level,” commented All-Star Michael Panella.

Ruben Harper walked. Then Giants All-Star Jose Sandoval smashed a fastball over the Education Building for a three-run homer, putting the All-Stars ahead, 4-3.

“My luck, I hit a homerun. I did what I can to help my team. Dewey is pitching a hell of a game. We just got to help him out,” Sandoval said modestly.

Denard hit a double, but was stranded as the inning ended on a popup.

“I left a couple of balls up that they put a bat on and won the battle. Part of pitching is bouncing back. I have one more inning — I’ll try to miss some bats,” said

Rogers. He didn’t give up any more runs.

The Pacifics retook the lead in the fifth when Kavanaugh got a two-run homer, making the score 5-4.

“When it’s 3-0, you just swing as hard as you can. I got lucky,” commented Kavanaugh. “This is definitely a good ball club. They have athletes all around the field. You have to swing the bat to beat these guys.”

In the bottom of the fifth, the Pacifics put Harry Shapiro on the mound.

In the sixth, Dumont struck out Michael Orefice and Lee. “It was a little cold. It takes time to warm up and get into a groove,” said Dumont after the game.

Bainer hit another double in the seventh, which allowed teammate Kavanaugh to bring him in with a single, making the score 6-4. A foul ball hit Lee in the on-deck circle. “As old as I am, you don’t feel it. I played without a cup for 14 years and now you almost kill me,” joked Lee.

With men on first and third, Lee’s shallow hit got him thrown out at first, ending the top of the seventh.

The Pacifics switched pitchers again in the seventh, putting Michael Kershner on the mound to close out the game. He pitched with heat and didn’t give up any runs.

“That guy’s got too much heat for these guys. Maybe if they had a few innings to look at him, a few might hit,” said S.Q. resident Danny Plunkett.

“They keep switching up (pitchers) so we can’t get accustomed to them,” noticed Harper about the Pacifics. “We need to get our pitching staff up.”

The Pacifics got two more runs off Dumont in the eighth. With the score 8-4, the All-Stars took Dumont off the mound in exchange for Mario Ellis. Dumont threw 154 pitches, struck out three batters, gave up 14 hits, 8 runs, and 3 walks.

Dumont never played pro. He

started playing baseball as a “wee tyke” and in the American Legion from ages 16-19.

“The guy who started was a good pitcher — he battled,” said Ryan Dejesus of the Pacifics.

“A flock of geese just came in; even they know the game is over,” comically commented Taylor after the pitcher switch.

Ellis didn’t fare better than even a tired Dumont. Ellis gave up nine runs, including a homer to Boyd. The errors the All-Stars made in the final inning didn’t help matters.

“They are studs at bat. They had me dialed in plus I have kids older than they are,” said Ellis.

Ellis, 43, played for professionally for the independent Pulaski Braves in Pulaski, Va., after playing for USCB Bakersfield and the Ashland traveling team out of San Andro.

For the All-Stars’ last chances at bat, the Pacifics put Rice on the mound. The All-Stars went three up and three down, with two batters striking out.

“There is no big secret to baseball — throw some strikes, catch the ball and don’t give anybody an extra out. It’s the extra outs that kill ya,” said DiPace.

“I think we needed to make sure the game isn’t too fast for us and calm our nerves. We played a good game for nine innings. Still fun regardless of the outcome,” said inmate coach Frank Smith

“You guys are like a lot of guys. You just made the wrong choices. Baseball is a game of failure, but you always have another shot if you never give up. So baseball teaches you to keep going through tough times, don’t give up and you can succeed,” said DiPace. “I think we should do more of this stuff. It’s something to look forward to and keep them going.”

DiPace’s father played basketball for Syracuse University against Sing Sing prisoners back in the days.

“Great experience — getting all the stories and chatting. We hope to do this every year. We also have a new team we may bring in called the Sonoma Stompers,” said part-owner Allen.

“Bring them and we’ll whip them,” Dumont said, challenging the Stompers.

“Words can’t describe this. I grew up playing this sport and watching it on TV. I’m gonna tell my kids about this. It makes us feel like human beings. Makes you want to do the right thing — get a job, coach some kids,” commented Smith.

“The sportsmanship out here is better. Everybody bonding over a love of baseball. Good old-fashioned backyard game,” said Bainer.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Pacifics Manager Danny DiPace talking with Bill Lee

Get On The Bus Celebrates Annual Event

Continued from Page 1

come out for the guys who don't get a lot of visits," said Correctional Officer M. Lajoie, who has been with CDCR since April.

"I'm giddy," said inmate Mark Jordan while hugging his daughter, Aleeya. "It's bitter and sweet. The sweetness is that I get to see my daughter who has grown into a smart and beautiful young lady," Jordan said. "But, it's bitter, because being in prison is hard. You begin to understand that the mistakes you made have made it hard on your wife and kid. However, seeing my family gives me a chance to talk freely about why I'm here and not at home."

"It's been a while. It's been five years," said Patrice Berry, Aleeya's mother. "When my baby found out about Get On The Bus she packed immediately. The Get On The Bus people provided everything. They truly treated us like guests. It was es-



Benito and daughter Vanessa Muro, Susana Aguirre and sons Oswaldo, Marco Antonio and Maximiliano Muro

before the GOTB event.

"This was a perfect Father's Day," said Gray III's mother, Sylvia Maldonado. "I was praying on it. I had nothing to lose. When Steve Emrick called me and said it was OK, I was so happy."

training program called Boot Camp and goes to church regularly. "Wherever I'm needed, I lend a hand," he added.

"Programs like this help them [incarcerated men] prepare for life when they come home," said GOTB volunteer Dominique De Clerck. "They have an early start on building a family bond."

De Clerck helped chaperone children who rode in buses that began their journey in San Bernardino, making stops in Los Angeles and Antelope Valley before getting to San Quentin.

"We think it is important to continue to build a relationship even though one is incarcerated," said GOTB volunteer Delores Leal.

"The Get On The Bus program is important to connect fathers with their children," said inmate Troy Phillips' ex, Zunknie Newell. "He [Troy] is the only dad that my kids know."

"This weekend was about love for one another, but it was also about the pain in the eyes of the children from so many missing/absent fathers," Phillips said.

Thirteen-year-old Gerald Salas Jr. popped out from hiding behind a vending machine in the visiting room and surprised his father, inmate Gerald Salas.

"The last time I saw him was three years ago," said Salas Sr., 29. "A Father's Day visit makes you feel good. It's a great feeling. It's the greatest feeling to be with all your children."

Salas Jr. said he traveled from Illinois to see his father. "When I surprised him, I started crying. Then he started crying. Then everyone was crying."

"He's a loving brother, a helping brother, who's always been there for me," said inmate Salas' sister, Tatianna Keagan, 14. Keagan's advice for families who have incarcerated members: "I would tell other kids to write them. They could always give good advice. My brother is a great dad to his kids and his family. He is a good son to his mom."

Inmate Salas said he has about three years left on his sentence. "I'm going to reunite my family after this is done," he said. Salas



Benny Gray III, father Benny and daughter Bianca Gray and Sylvia Maldonado

gets tested every day in prison. You have to learn how to deal with it properly."

"When I see children leave from the visit, they leave with joy and happiness. It is so beautiful to see children bond with their father," Molina said. "We're restoring the lives of the children to get them to connect so when daddy comes home they are not strangers. Reuniting children with their fathers is healing. Children have the right to be loved. They have the right to be kissed. We need to care about our children."

"It really meant so much to me to spend time with my granddaughter and her to call me grandpa," said Inmate Darnell "Moe" Washington. "She will always have memories of spending time with her grandpa Moe."

Inmate John Vernacchio is the visiting room cameraman. "This was my second Get On The Bus event," he said. "It's heartwarming because you see families connecting. I almost broke into tears after seeing five family members in a group hug."

Vernacchio, a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, has no children and gets no visits. He said, "I feel blessed because I've been in the visiting room for a year and a half and kids come up and hug me. Some of the people who visit here make me feel like I have a family here, at least for the moment."

It costs between \$4,000 to \$6,000 to pay for a bus from San Diego to San Quentin, according to Molina. An extra expense stems from the many stops to pick up children along the way to San Quentin, she said. "We don't want to leave any children behind."

—By Juan Haines and Phoeun You



Cathy and John E. Kalin with Amalia Molina,

pecially special for people who do not normally get waited on."

GOTB volunteer/chaperone Karen Vandelaat said, "We're all just one mistake from being someone in prison. Our message is that inmates are people who made a different choice. It's a part of humanity to reach out and help. It's like helping the underdogs."

Vandelaat chaperoned children who rode in buses that began their journey in Long Beach, making stops in Santa Clarita, Bakersfield and Visalia before arriving at San Quentin.

Inmate Benny Gray's surprise could not be contained as he watched his son Benny Gray III walk into the visiting room wearing a cap and gown. Gray's son graduated from Lincoln High School in Stockton the day

Emrick is the Community Partnership Manager for San Quentin and the person who had to OK Gray III to come inside the prison with his cap and gown.

Gray III, a wrestler and football player, said his senior year was a struggle. "I made it through by keeping to my books. I just did everything I had to do."

"I was being mom and dad while Benny was locked up," Maldonado said. "I had to take him to church. It worked. He started calming down. I left everything in God's hands."

Gray III said he plans to go to tech school to learn electrical engineering and then go into the Air Force.

"He's a good brother," said his sister Bianca. "He helps me with my homework when I get stuck on it. That's why I love him very much."

Gray has about three more years on a six-year sentence. He said, "Since I'm from Stockton, I feel fortunate to have done all my time at San Quentin." Gray said he is a co-facilitator for Victim Offenders Education Group. He said that he has completed three phases of the religious



Darnell and granddaughter Khalieah Allen-Washington and Mother Bobbie Young

said he has completed a parenting class since being incarcerated. He said he is working on getting his GED; he attends Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. "You have to stop and think about what you're doing," Salas said. "Your anger



Grandson Aston King, Darell Flowers, Nicole Smith and Doreil Flowers

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



Troy Phillips and daughter, Heaven

California Prisons Adopt Elderly Parole Rules

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Many elderly and frail prisoners who meet the new California parole criteria are ready for release.

"The program's details were released publicly for

the first time at a meeting of the Board of Parole Hearings. They were ordered by a panel of federal judges earlier this year, as part of required steps the state must take to reduce prison crowding to acceptable levels," Paige St. John of *The LA Times* recently wrote.

Inmates age 60 years or older, who have spent at least 25 years in prison, are eligible for release if they are not sentenced to death or serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. "Those hearings are to begin in October," according to a board executive.

Additionally, inmates with health conditions requiring skilled nursing care are eligible for re-



Photo By Sam Hearnes

Patrick Kelly

See *Elderly* on Pg. 5



Photo by Sam Hearn

Participants gather for the opening event

S.Q. Avon Walk Raises Funds for Breast Cancer

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of Bay Area people came into San Quentin on July 18 and 19 to walk laps

in support of the annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

The two-day event drew about 150 inmates and 50 free people each day. The first lap was walked in silence as in-

mates mingled with local volunteers, representatives from Avon and prison staffers.

Six years ago, the inmate or-

See *San Quent.* on Page 10

Law Firm Opposes Restrictions on Reading Choices

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A law firm is opposing newly proposed regulations by the California Department of Correc-

tions and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that have the potential to censor inmate reading material.

Leila Knox, an attorney with the law firm Bryan Cave, LLP, sent an e-mail to the CDCR's

Regulation and Policy Management Branch "On behalf of the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper."

Knox wrote in response to a CDCR proposal to change regu-

lations to ban what it considers "obscene material."

"The Proposed Regulations include ostensibly minor revisions that could be used to work a fundamental change that

would severely burden the First Amendment rights of both inmates in CDCR facilities and innocent third parties who wish to

See *CDCR* on Page 8

Alliance for CHANGE Helps 16 Graduates Transform Their Lives

Sixteen San Quentin inmates have earned Certificates of Accomplishment from the Alliance for CHANGE social justice program. They were presented in front of co-leaders, facilitators, mentors, out-

side volunteers and guests.

It was the seventh class to complete the 16-week grueling and intense social justice program facilitated by professors from the University of San Francisco and San Francisco

State University.

During the July 9 ceremonies held in the Arc Building, Dr. Kim Richman and Dr. Karen Lovas sat in the audience as

See *Alliance* on Page 15



Photo courtesy of Oakland School District

Students and teachers inside an Oakland High School classroom

Washington Aids Oakland School Programs

By Nelson T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

David Johns, executive director of the President's Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, recently visited Oakland High School to talk with teachers and students and learn lessons from the programs the city has implemented to help black and Hispanic

young people.

Earlier this year President Obama began a \$200 million initiative, which includes a task force to identify how the federal government can support and promote programs designed to improve educational outcomes for young black and Hispanic men.

See *Oakland* on Page 4



Photo by Sam Hearn

Alliance for CHANGE graduates receive their certificates

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, PL Brown, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Marshall Cook, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, Simone Gabrielle Crowe, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Daniel Elber, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillingier, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, George Estrada, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheila Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman*, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngrad, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Kaitlin Kall, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Anthony Kenrick*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klopp, Dwane Kratchovil, Elise Kroeber, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cheryl Macomber, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Tracy McIntosh, Andrew MacKay, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, J.S. Perrella*, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarsone, Lucia Scott, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Utheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasic*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Carla White, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

Rochelle Edwards Transitions Out of VOEG's Leadership Role

By JulianGlenn Padgett
Staff Writer

For a decade Rochelle Edwards has counseled San Quentin inmates through her program Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG). Now preparing to move on, Edwards shared with us what she has learned about healing, redemption, insight and forgiveness.

Edwards started VOEG in 2004 with one group and has since established 28 groups across the state.

"Over the years working with prisoners who've been through the program and survivors, together we've continued to improve on the VOEG curriculum, to make it what it is today," said Edwards.

"Forgiveness is important for everyone, regardless of the degree of the transgression. And it's most important for the forgiver, the person doing the forgiving."

She thinks that in a healthy society we need to figure out how to integrate members who have caused harm and been harmed, instead of furthering alienation between them. She says this is what continues the cycle of offense and alienation.

"Over and over again I've had the experience of people sharing events or stories from their lives that they've never talked about before," she said. "Oftentimes, these stories or events were very traumatic and as a young child they didn't have the tools or right meaning to process them."

"These men knew they wouldn't have the chance to meet their victim, so I created the VOEG curriculum for people who wanted to do accountability work and connect the dots of their lives — to have them begin to question how they ended up in prison, and give them the opportunity to meet with survivors of similar crimes."

"I feel like this work chose me, and I've had some great experiences, but now my life is ready for a new transition," said Edwards.

Her transition includes leaving VOEG in the capable hands of Sonya Shah.

In 2009, Shah began volunteering for the Insight Prison Project (IPP), which acts as an umbrella organization for several rehabilitative programs.

"Jamie Karroll [of IPP] had asked me to be on the survivor panel for a pilot VOEG program in Alameda County's Juvenile Hall," said Shah. "I noticed that it was a very healing experience to both talk with the youth about my past traumas and have them share theirs."

Shah, who is the Justice Program Director for IPP, completed her VOEG training in 2010 and has been coming into San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearn

Rochelle Edwards congratulating Billy Allen at the VOEG Next Step graduation

ever since.

"I was immediately drawn to the VOEG process, specifically how our past experiences, our childhood, our socio-cultural influences shape who we are, and how trauma so easily manifests into harming behavior, both harming to oneself and to others," Shah said.

"We have groups that are in Spanish for youth and for women. So our curriculum has to adapt to the unique needs of each community."

Shah said the work that Edwards has created with the men of San Quentin is nothing short of phenomenal.

"You can see the work the men have done on themselves through how they actively listen, like every word is important. And they respond in a manner that demonstrates you are being heard. That's progress on a large scale," said Shah.

Edwards considers VOEG one of the best ways to explore personal trauma and the ensuing release of such trauma through behavior that is not positive for society. It is a way to explore the relationships we have, the one with ourselves and the one with people around us and our community.

"There has to be a way for people in prison to be connected and stay connected to the community, and the best way to do that is to have people come into the prison and build both professional relationships and skilled development through those in-

teractions and offerings," Edwards said.

"The VOEG process is quite mutual," she continued. "We're all learning from each other, the men I have worked with are my teachers, my children are my biggest teachers. And all my relationships are opportunities to learn."

She thinks that her sense of wanting to be of service to incarcerated people comes from working on a farm as a youngster.

"A lot of the people I cleaned stalls with on the farm were individuals who had been to prison. I didn't know it as a kid, but that was a form of restoration; so helping the incarcerated just feels right," said Edwards. "Restorative justice restores our moral compass, our morality, our sense of self, who we were intended to be before our lives were interrupted."

Edwards said the VOEG groups emphasize creating a safe container, a safe place for small groups of men and women to come together and begin to unpack their past, to take off their masks.

"They are witnessed in their truth and learn new tools that were missing at the time of their crime," Edwards said. "We, as facilitators, enter into a conscious relationship with the members of our group, recognizing that our interactions have the potential to be reparative."

Edwards said her transition should allow her more time to focus her efforts toward developing The Victim Offender Dialogue Program throughout California.

She will continue running a VOEG group. "I'm just scaling back and developing other interests," said Edwards.

Through her years with the program, Edwards says she has learned one important thing:

"Through VOEG I've learned that men and women in prison are more than the worst day of their lives — and they can heal and take their rightful place in society."



File photo

Sonya Shah

‘Is the Era of the Death Penalty Ending?’

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Is the era of the death penalty ending? “We’re seeing the first signs that it could happen,” William Saletan of *Slate* reports.

In a 1994 Gallup poll and a National Opinion Research Center Social Survey, 80 percent of those polled supported the death penalty.

A GSS sample taken in 2012 shows “support fell to 65 percent, the lowest number since the question was introduced in its current form four decades ago.” The following year, another Gallup Poll found support dropped to 60 percent for the first time in 40 years.

One Pew survey discloses that support for executing murderers dropped to 55 percent, down three points from its previous low in 2013.

Saletan cited a *CBS News* survey that found “the support level fell to 59 percent (four points down from the previous low).”

“The percentage of respondents who opposed the death penalty rose to 33 percent (six points about the previous high),” according to Saletan.

CBS News also reported that for the first time in 26 years,

support fell into the 50s or the opposition number has climbed into the 30s.

In a *Washington Post/ABC News* poll released in May 2014, given a choice between two punishments for murder, only 42 percent chose the death penalty compared to 52 percent who preferred life imprisonment without parole. “That’s an eight-point drop in support for capital punishment since the previous *Post/ABC* poll in 2006,” Saletan said.

Since 1960, homicide and other violent crimes have caused the rise and fall of the death penalty. Saletan thinks when the crime rates fall, “capital punishment could sink with them. If crime increases, support for the death penalty could rise with it.”

In a two-year Gallup survey (1985-1986), Respondents agreed by roughly two-to-one ratios (61 percent to 32 percent) that the death penalty lowers the murder rate. These percentages moved 10 points by 1991.

This two-to-one margin was completely reversed by the 2000s. “More than 60 percent rejected the deterrence claim. That’s a 30-point swing in 20 years,” Saletan said. From the early 1980s to the 2000s,

the percentage of respondents who believed that executions deterred murder fell nearly 20 points.

Saletan said, “This is an empirical belief, not a moral one. There is an academic debate over whether executions affect the murder rate. The question is difficult to resolve in part because the number of executions is too small to provide a clear answer.”

“If crime increases, support for the death penalty could rise with it”

Preference for life without the possibility of parole increased among Gallup poll respondents between 1985 and 2010. Even those states that have the death penalty legislation preferred this punishment. Nevertheless, “In Gallup’s trend data, the change in death penalty support (20 points) exceeds the change in response to the life-without-parole question (16) points,” said Saletan. “When the (Washington)

Post/ABC poll presented a scenario in which lethal injection was outlawed or otherwise unavailable, 10 percent of respondents shifted from supporting death penalty to saying it should end,” he adds.

In an *NBC News* poll conducted in April 2014, 61 percent of those polled chose an alternative method of execution — more than the 59 percent who originally said they favored capital punishment.

“In seven polls taken from 2001 to 2007, on average, 66 percent of respondents said the death penalty was acceptable; 27 percent said it was wrong,” Saletan reported.

In another set of polls taken from 2008 to 2014, “the acceptable average fell to 62 percent.” Those who thought the death penalty was wrong increased to 30 percent.

Over a period of time, people become more averse to violence, according to evidence presented in Saletan’s report. “But it’s hard to connect that grand arc with public opinion trends on the death penalty,” said Saletan.

One reason for the biggest shift in the percentage of those respondents opposed to the death penalty came in surveys

conducted in 1991 and 2003. They “cited the risk of erroneous convictions,” Saletan wrote.

Those “numbers more than doubled from 11 percent to 25 percent of the anti-death penalty subsample. This finding is backed by the Death Penalty Information Center’s 2007 survey, which identified people who had shifted from supporting to opposing capital punishment,” he added.

Of the several factors that influenced their decision to oppose the death penalty, “62 percent cited evidence that innocent people are sometimes sentenced to death,” Saletan said.

NBC News’ 2014 poll found 35 percent of respondents said that the reason to oppose the death penalty is that it “carries the risk of killing someone who was wrongly convicted.”

“The second most popular reason given for supporting the death penalty (and the best reason to support it, according to respondents who themselves oppose capital punishment) was that modern science, like DNA testing, reduces the possibility someone has been wrongly convicted,” according to that same *NBC News* 2014 poll.

Studies Show Declining Executions Since 2011

‘This represents the 12th consecutive year in which the number of inmates under sentence of death decreased’

Executions in the United States are on a decline. At the end of 2012, 35 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons held 3,033 inmates on death row, down by 32 from the previous year.

“This represents the 12th consecutive year in which the number of inmates under sentence of death decreased,” according to a 2014 report by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

REPORT CONFIRMS

The report confirms only 56 inmates under federal jurisdiction were held with death sentences at year end 2012.

The state of Florida sentenced 20, followed by California with 13, Texas had nine and Pennsylvania received only six on death row. These four states accounted for 61 percent of those sentenced to death in 2012.

“California, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania held more than half of all inmates on death row on Dec. 31, 2012,” the DOJ reported.

In 2012, the Federal Bureau of Prison and 19 states reported that 79 inmates were received under sentence of death, a 5 percent decrease from the 83 in 2011. “The number of inmates received in 2012 was the smallest number of admissions to death row since 1973, when 44 persons were admitted,” reported the DOJ.

In the report, 13 jurisdictions had fewer inmates, and 18 states had the same number. Florida showed the larg-

est increase (up 10 inmates). “Oklahoma and Texas (down eight each), followed by Mississippi (down seven), North Carolina (down six) and Arizona (down five) had the largest decreases.”

“Twenty states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons removed 111 inmates from under sentence of death: 43 were executed, 17 died by means other than execution and 51 were removed because of commutations of courts overturning sentences or convictions,” the report said. In 2012, a quarter of all prisoners taken off death row came from Texas (17) and Florida (10).

In 2012, 43 executions were carried out in nine states. Those prisoners executed had been on death row an average of 15 years and 10 months; this was eight months less than those executed in 2011.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, capital murder cases steadily increased until the number peaked at 3,601 in 2000. Since the court approved capital punishment, “35 states and the federal government [have] executed 1,320 inmates,” according to the DOJ report.

Between 1977 and 2012, 8,032 inmates were sentenced to death. Despite these sentences, the report shows, “16 percent had been executed, 6 percent died by causes other than execution and 40 percent received other dispositions.” From 1930 through the end of 2012, 5,179 inmates were ex-

ecuted under civil authority.

As of Dec. 31, 2012, 36 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty; however, one state repealed its death penalty statute, while another state had a portion of its statute declared unconstitutional and a third state revised its capital punishment law.

“Ninety-eight percent of inmates under sentence of death were male, and 2 percent were female”

Even though “New Mexico repealed its death penalty in 2009, the repeal was not retroactive, and offenders charged with a capital offense committed prior to the repeal may be eligible for a death sentence,” reported the DOJ. At the end of 2012, the state held two men under previously imposed death sentences, while it sought the death penalty for one person.

“In 2012, the Connecticut legislature repealed the death penalty effective for only those capital offenses committed on or after April 25, 2012. Since the repeal was prospective, 10 men remained under sentence of death as of Dec. 31, 2012,” reported the DOJ.

On Dec. 31, 2012, lethal injections were authorized as the method of execution in all 36 states that had capital punishment. Fifteen jurisdictions sanctioned an alternative method of execution, eight states authorized electrocution, three states authorized gas, three states authorized hanging and two states authorized the use of a firing squad.

“Delaware authorized hangings, Oklahoma authorized electrocution or firing squad, Utah authorized firing squad and Wyoming authorized lethal gas” as alternative methods, if lethal injection is ruled out, according to the report.

In a state that authorizes multiple methods of execution, the condemned prisoner generally selects the method of execution. The DOJ reports, “Five of the 15 states (Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Utah) stipulated which method must be used depending on either the date of the offense or sentencing” and in New Hampshire hanging is authorized only if the lethal injection cannot be used.

In a landmark case, the Arkansas Supreme Court’s decision in *Hobbs v. Jones* (2012 Ark.293) compelled the court to reevaluate its Method of Execution Act of 2009 (Ark. Code Ann. Sections 5-4-617 (Supp. 2011)).

In the *Jones* decision, the court ruled that these procedures violated the separation of powers doctrine in Article 4 of the Arkansas Constitu-

tion because the legislature “granted the executive branch sole discretion in selecting the method of administering the drugs for lethal injections,” the report said.

REVISED STATUTORY

In 2012, Delaware revised statutory provisions relating to capital punishment. According to the DOJ report, “The legislature added home invasion as a class B felony offense to its penal codes. Effective on June 1, the state amended the aggravating factors for which death penalty may be imposed to include murder committed in the course of a home invasion.”

Lethal injections are the only method used to execute federal prisoners. For offenses prosecuted under the federal violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the method used is that of the state in which the conviction took place.

At the end of 2012, of all the inmates sentenced to death, 56 percent were white and 42 percent were black. Hispanics, which numbered 384, accounted for 14 percent of the prisoners with known ethnicity. “Ninety-eight percent of inmates under sentence of death were male, and 2 percent were female. The race and sex of inmates under sentence of death has remained relatively unchanged since 2000,” the report concluded.

—By Charles David Henry

Federal Court Refuses to Order Disclosure of Lethal Drug Source

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

A federal appeals court has refused to order Missouri to reveal the source of drugs to be used in lethal injections. In a 7-3 decision, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis said Death Row

inmates' lawyers neglected to show more humane executions are available. *The Post Dispatch* reported that the majority decision said, "If the inmates' lawyers can't point to a more humane execution than lethal injection, such as hanging or firing squad, they are not entitled to discov-

er more about the pharmacy hired by Missouri to make the drugs for the injections." Missouri's Department of Correction argued naming the source would make carrying out executions more difficult. *The Dispatch* reported, "Lawyers for a group of inmates have argued that Mis-

souri's reliance on compounding pharmacies in Oklahoma to produce pentobarbital for lethal injections could violate their rights to be free from cruel and unusual punishment." "A three-member panel of the 8th Circuit had previously upheld a lower court's deci-

sion to provide inmates' lawyers with the identification of the Oklahoma compounding pharmacy," the *Dispatch* reported. The full 8th Circuit reversed that decision. The three judges who opposed the decision said, "Requiring condemned inmates to suggest alternative ways to die would be absurd." Deborah Denno, a Fordham law professor and death penalty expert, said the ruling put the lawyers for condemned Missouri inmates in a Catch-22.

More Data Needed to Assess Realignment Impacts

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

On the eve of realignment's third anniversary, the law (AB 109) has no requirement to support local officials with the collection of data or an assessment of what correctional methods are most effective. A report on realignment published by Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) said that a data-driven approach for corrections officials that would demonstrate what works have been overlooked. "A central principle of AB 109 is that counties should have a strong hand in designing their

own approach to managing offenders who are now under their purview," PPIC said. But AB 109 legislation did not dedicate funds for counties to evaluate the rising effects of realignment after its implementation. In addition, there is no designation of funding for counties to "assess the success rates of their local correctional strategies." "...The long-term stability and sustainability of California's criminal justice system depends not on the success of a few counties, but on the broad statewide adoption of successful correctional strategies that promote public safety and re-

duce reliance on California's overextended prison system," PPIC said.

"A large and increasing portion of the felony population will never reach state prison"

"Based on our work with the 11 counties, we establish data collection priorities that will enable counties to implement

evidence-based practices," PPIC noted. PPIC illustrated how collecting and using data can assist counties to "identify effective and efficient programs" and how to "hold service providers more accountable," among other benefits. According to PPIC, a limited number of strategies have been researched and their application in California's jail populations "remains untested." PPIC said, "If the state as a whole is going to move in this direction, then each county must not only be technologically capable of carrying out its own data-driven strategies but must

also be able to contribute to the state's understanding of what works." PPIC reported that some problems pre-date the reforms under realignment, and the lack of funding has made "the shortcomings of existing data collection efforts even more pronounced." "We envision a system with a level of standardization that allows the state to capitalize on the experiences of various counties," PPIC said. Among the relevant data that needs to be gathered are offender "risks and needs assessments" on each individual. This information, the report said, will help local corrections officials "gauge whether an individual will reoffend." "A large and increasing portion of the felony population will never reach state prison. Those populations are 'off the radar' of state tracking systems and their information is not available to be shared for either law enforcement or research purposes," PPIC reported. PPIC's report concluded by making several recommendations for improving the quality of data used, and to make it available while ensuring the data captured is pertinent, connected across various systems and uses a standard to define key measures. It also recommends upgrading the technological systems now in use to make it easier to extract, collect and share data. PPIC cited a *Huffington Post* article that characterized AB 109 as "the biggest penal experiment in modern history."

5.85 Million Americans Disenfranchised Due to Prior Felony Convictions

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

When it comes to the U.S. laws governing the right to vote, a staggering 5.85 million Americans are prevented from voting due to prior felony convictions, *The Sentencing Project* reports.

RETRIBUTIVE

The current U.S. justice system is a retributive model. In other words, when a crime has been committed it is against the state though it happened to a citizen. The argument some ex-felons are making is that after finishing their sentences, they should not be punished further when returning to society. If their

debt has been paid through incarceration, then most of their rights should also be restored. Adding to the problem of disenfranchisement is the disproportionality in which people of color are affected. One in every 13 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised. That is four times more than non-African Americans are. Though disenfranchisement numbers vary across racial groups, the inability to participate in the voting process has a huge negative impact on the communities where people of color are the dominate population. The numbers presented represent the best assessment of the state of felon disenfranchisement as of December

2010, the most recent year for which complete data is available, according to sociologists Christopher Uggen of the University of Minnesota and Jeff Manza of New York University.

DATA

The data covering disenfranchisement shows an estimated 1.17 million people disenfranchised in 1976, 3.34 million in 1996, and more than 5.85 million in 2010, according to the report. Every state has its own exclusive voting laws. Many states have addressed this issue by implementing state felony disenfranchisement reform. The state of Maryland, which once had a very strict lifetime ban on voting for ex-

felons, has now repealed that ban. Other states have also revised their voting protocols for ex-felons, allowing these men and women to regain some of their civil rights. Typically, some mechanisms are put into place to revise disenfranchisement laws. However, narrowing down these mechanisms is very difficult to do, as it is hard to obtain consistent data pertaining to revision. However, Maine and Vermont are now the only two states allowing its prisoners to vote. They are in line with our neighbors to the north. Canada allows all of its inmate population the right to vote, giving them a voice in all government elections and bills.

Oakland Schools Gain Support From Obama's Administration

Continue from Page 1

The Oakland High and Oakland School District's programs grabbed the attention of the president's national initiative, My Brother's Keeper. Johns came to Oakland to identify some of the programs that have been effective and shown a record of success, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. According to the Obama administration, black and Hispanic men are six times more likely to be murdered than white men. By the fourth grade, most African-American and Hispanic boys are reading below standard proficiency levels. The *San Francisco Chronicle* pointed out that over the last decade in Oakland, the number of young black men prepared to attend college after high school was nearly the same

as the number killed. Four years ago, in an effort to address the problems of young black men failing in high school, getting caught up in the criminal justice system and failing to continue their education on to college, Oakland opened the African-American Male Achievement Office in the school district. In 2011, Manhood Development classes, designed for and by black males, enrolled their first students. Other programs were started throughout the city to address issues most significant to the success or failure of young men of color — including community violence, mental health services, role model and mentorship programs, plus personal and academic support. The aim was to help these young men continue on to college.

Julian Taylor, who participated in the meeting with Johns, was one of the first students enrolled in the Manhood Development class. He is now a junior and taking Advanced Placement courses. "I've grown as a person since being in it. It gives me a lot of support," Taylor said of the program. Out of 22 students who began the program with Taylor, only eight remain. The others have either moved out of the district or left school. One student landed in the juvenile justice system. Oakland High Principal Matin Abdel-qawi told *Chronicle* reporter Jill Tucker that there are no easy answers. "For a lot of reasons [black males] don't do well in these four walls," Abdel-qawi said. He pointed out that the lives of



Photo courtesy of Oakland School District

Students and teachers show solidarity

his students are complicated, with very specific needs, and it can be hard to resist the lure of the streets. Abdel-qawi said he would like to see an academy with a range of courses for African-American young men.

"We can cater a program solely for African-American males with them in mind," he said. "They could become assets to the community rather than leeches on it or someone who takes away from our society."

Monterey County OKs \$88.9 Million

The County Should Focus On Alternatives to Incarceration

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

Monterey County has approved an \$88.9 million plan to add 576 beds to its county jail, the *Monterey Herald* reports. It is the largest public work project in the county's recent history, according to Monterey County's Public Works Assistant Director Paul Greenway.

Opponents include the American Civil Liberties Union and community activists who characterize the expansion as an investment in more incarceration over programs aimed at rehabilitation and crime prevention.

ALTERNATIVES

The county should focus on alternatives to incarceration such as reduced bail, said Jane Parker, a member of the county Board of Supervisors. She noted an earlier plan would have added only

288 jail beds. She favored a smaller, less expensive jail to generate savings to spend on proven crime-prevention programs.

Parker also noted that most county inmates were awaiting trial.

MORE BEDS

Greenway said that 576 more beds were needed to meet the population overflow as well the population growth projected over the next 20 years.

Sheriff's Office officials agreed with Greenway about the need for expansion. The expansion will increase the county's ability to implement classes and programs for inmates in the future, they say, whereas currently "classroom space is practically nonexistent."

It would be good to know what the new additions are going to look like in terms of rehabilitative program space, said Supervisor Fernando Ar-

menta.

Armenta's question was partially answered on Jan. 7, when county supervisors approved an agreement with Soledad's Correctional Training Facility (CTF). This agreement creates a transitional program for inmates who are within two months of a release date.

Now, "instead of winding up in the streets with nothing

and no idea of how to get services," explained correctional counselor Jeff Frye, inmates will "go through transitional training beforehand." Historically, these county inmates "fell off the grid" when the county was less involved, but now they will have programs to make them more successful, the *Monterey Herald* reported.

Frye said, "It helps us to reduce recidivism rates."

The program will teach 60 inmates at a time during five-week courses. Inmates will learn under the administration of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to fill out job applications, write resumes, interview successfully and understand their finances.

New Criminal Justice Strategy Aims To Reduce Costs and Recidivism

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Seventeen states are using a new criminal justice strategy that relies on evidence-based methods to bring down prison costs while reducing recidivism rates, according to the *Urban Institute*. Projected savings vary across states, ranging from \$7.7 million over five years to \$875 million over an 11-year period.

"Policies enacted by Justice Reinvestment Initiative states are predicted to either reduce the overall prison population or slow its growth. States projecting a reduction in total incarcerated population expect the decrease to range from 0.6 to 19 percent," according to the report. "States that do not project a decrease in population expect to slow incarcerated population growth by 5 to 21 percentage points."

The federal government funds the strategy through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI).

The strategy called Justice Reinvestment gets input from a variety of public safety stakeholders and keeps records of what works and what does not in criminal justice policy.

Risks and needs assessments are used by 16 of the 17 states to justify prison costs.

"These assessments informed decisions about detention, incarceration and release conditions as well as the allocation of supervision and treatment resources," according to the report.

Accountability measures were adopted in 15 states. "These included ensuring the use of EBPs (evidence-based practices) requiring that departures from sentencing guidelines be justified and developing new data reporting requirements to facilitate the evaluation of justice system operations," the report

finds.

Nearly all of the states adopted "intermediate and graduated sanctions" to implement swift and certain responses, such as shorter jail stays for parole and probation technical violators.

Some states have developed response "matrices" that included both punitive and incentive-based responses designed to promote offender accountability and positive behavior change.

“These assessments informed decisions about detention, incarceration and release conditions as well as the allocation of supervision and treatment resources”

Community-based treatment programs were developed or expanded in 11 states with JRI funding. In addition, these states expanded the availability of programming by funding key services such as substance-abuse treatment. Several states encouraged the use of these programs by requiring that reentry plans be developed for each existing prisoner.

Eleven states implemented sentencing changes and "departure mechanisms." These systems revise mandatory minimums, provide safety valves and expand non-incarceration options.

Some of these changes include procedures to revise

mandatory minimum sentences and increase the use of drug courts in order to reduce offenders being sent to prison.

Six states receiving JRI funding "created or expanded problem-solving courts," and use mandatory supervision guidelines to ensure that certain existing prisoners receive post-release supervision.

Problem-solving courts used various methods to provide treatment for offenders with specific needs. "Often, problem-solving courts in JRI states focus on those with substance abuse and mental health disorders," according to the report.

Seven states target high-risk offenders and impose mandatory supervision after release. The report found that mandatory supervision increases the offender's ability to stay out of prison.

The report explains that only "six JRI states streamlined the parole processes, and five expanded eligibility for parole" to facilitate the release of eligible offenders to parole supervision and shorten lengths of stay, while ensuring that appropriate supervision conditions are met toward public safety.

The report recognized some states wanted to construct new prisons, but decided to invest in alternatives to incarceration instead. By eliminating the need to construct a facility, the states saved money that can be allocated toward exploring what safety measures work and what does not work.

States using Justice Reinvestment strategies funded by JRI are Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia.

Plans to Reduce Prison Population Increases Number in County Jails

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

California's state prisons continue to struggle to meet a court-imposed inmate population cap at the same time that Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to ease overcrowding has caused an increase in county jail populations.

This is happening despite the fact that arrests are down, reports the *Stockton Record*.

Brown's realignment plan was designed to reduce the state prison population and has shifted the responsibility for certain low-level felony offenders to county jail systems.

One of the stress factors placed on local jails is the need for higher security.

As the low-level convicted felon population increases in jails, so does the need for more secure perimeters. San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore is currently seeking funds to replace the jail's aging Honor Farm security measures.

San Joaquin's County supervisors have approved a proposal seeking \$40 million to address the issue.

Traditionally, jails were designed to house offenders while they awaited court hearings or served sentences that were a year or less.

In San Joaquin County, felony offenders serving sentences averaging about three years in length are contributing to the rise in jail population. AB109 is largely responsible for those convicted of felonies spending more time in jail, the *Stockton Record* reports. In the past, lower-level offenders convicted of felo-

nies would be sent to prison to serve their time. However, in 2011, AB109 eliminated returning some parolees to prison and shifted the burden onto county jails.

The *Stockton Record* report noted that the San Joaquin County jail population has increased to a daily average of nearly 400 inmates.

An additional factor, those convicted of misdemeanors were more likely to receive an early release into the community as a result of the court-mandated population cap.

According to the *Record*, the San Joaquin County sheriff is concerned that these felony offenders pose a risk to public safety. They are housed in a facility that was not designed to contain violent or serious offenders, so the sheriff worries about the possibility of escape. Last year, 10 inmates walked away from the Honor Farm.

Critics of upgrading the Honor Farm facility prefer that more be spent on preparing prisoners for reentry into society.

The *Stockton Record* concluded that AB109-sentenced prisoners and those serving prison parole violations need facilities that include more secure perimeters.

Elderly CDCR Prisoners Ready for Early Release

Continued from Page 1

moval to various health care or nursing facilities. "If they recover, they face a return trip to prison," St. John reported

One board attorney told St. John, "Hearings under the

new rules, which reflect an expansion of existing medical parole, are to begin by July 1."

The state's expanded health program will place approximately 100 inmates into health care facilities, the Finance Department estimated.

Eighty-five prisoners who met the state's elderly criteria are estimated to be released this year, St. John reported.

"In both cases, parole officials stressed that commissioners are to consider public safety risks before agreeing to release a prisoner," St.

John said.

The Life Support Alliance, a group that supports parole for inmates serving life sentences, was delighted by the recent publication. Supporter Gail Brown said "older inmates age out of violent behavior."

CDCR Press Secretary Visits San Quentin News

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

In June, the *San Quentin News* editorial board welcomed three officials from the Sacramento headquarters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: CDCR Press Secretary Jeffrey Callison, Deputy Press Secretary Terry Thornton and Public Information Officer Kristina Khokhobashvili. They came to introduce themselves to the staff.

Callison, who formerly worked for National Public Radio, opened the meeting by saying, “I know you guys were apprehensive when someone told you that Sacramento is coming down to check out the paper; thinking, ‘We’re from the government. We want to help.’”

His joke relaxed the editorial board.

Prior to the meeting, editorial board members had discussed fears of being shut down or controlled by officials, or being

EDITORIAL

guided into being a mouthpiece for the administration. We were wrong. *San Quentin News* is an inmate run newspaper, subject to review by the warden’s office for safety and security concerns.

The relationship with communication officials in Sacramento has brought a new level of professionalism to our publication. Now *San Quentin News* has direct access to the press office at CDCR headquarters, where knowledgeable personnel will take the time to answer questions on any topic a *San Quentin News* reporter wants to ask. The editorial board believes that this is unprecedented for an inmate run newspaper—having such a level of access to government officials about what is happening inside its prisons.

Even though Sacramento has installed another layer of review of the newspaper prior to going

to press, the extra scrutiny offers more accuracy and objectivity of what is printed.

“OPEC respects the *San Quentin News* journalists for making their newspaper as accurate and objective as possible,” Khokhobashvili said.

Under the supervision of Lt. Samuel Robinson, Public Information Officer at San Quentin, *San Quentin News* has won widespread recognition as a legitimate and independent news organization.

Our inmate staff felt honored to be respected as professionals by the *Daily Californian* at UC Berkeley, *Marin Independent Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Fresno Bee*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Seattle Times*, *The Nation* magazine and many newspapers that reprinted the stories about the *San Quentin News*.

On the website Inside CDCR, the Office of Public and Employee Communications posted an



Kristina Khokhobashvili, Terry Thornton and Jeffrey Callison

article about *San Quentin News* headlined “Extra! Extra! *San Quentin’s inmate journalists share their talents.*” Referring to the quality of the newspaper, the article said, “The paper was honored earlier this year by a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for “accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances.”

Due to this recognition by the Society of Professional Journalists, the inmate reporters have

been encouraged to form a new chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists within San Quentin.

The inmates who produce *San Quentin News* have always been concerned with the integrity of the information published in it. The goal of the *San Quentin News* editorial board is to be responsible, professional and objective. Good communication with officials in Sacramento furthers that goal.

Movie Producer Scott Budnick Attends Ironwood State Prison for TEDx Event

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

There’s a lot going on in the desert, and it’s not a mirage, reported Scott Budnick of his May visit to Ironwood State Prison. In *The Huffington Post* he described the low, flat concrete buildings with tall steel fences and razor-sharp barbed wire rising out of the blazing-hot landscape.

Ironwood State Prison is a maximum-security facility located in the desert, not far from the border between California and Arizona.

Upon entering the gates of the prison, Budnick immediately noticed that the facility, only designed to house 2,200 inmates, quietly functions with 2,938 inmates.

“But inside these concrete buildings, something extraordinary is happening,” Budnick wrote. Ironwood State Prison has the largest prison education program in California where an astonishing 1,200 plus students have earned college degrees. Some men learn to transcribe college texts into Braille, while

others are trained in additional valuable trade skills.

The administration, staff and inmate population have created a new culture, Budnick reported, centered on education. Young inmates avoid the typical drugs, violence and negativity associated with prison life. The environment at this facility has transformed lives and developed responsible character among the ranks, according to Budnick.

“This culture change has manifested itself in a new sense of pride by both students and staff,” wrote Budnick.

Most men are doing hard time, Budnick reported, but not necessarily for hard crime.

“Many are affected by California’s three strikes law under which even low-level felonies, such as writing a bad check, can garner a strike on the way to serving 25-to-life sentences. Men, even young men, rattled off how long they had been in: 19 years, 25 years, 33 years. And they weren’t even close to getting out,” he said.

Budnick saw hope and compassion emerging as men



Photo courtesy of CDCR Press

Sir Richard Branson and Scott Budnick

gained a deeper understanding of themselves and their crimes. “In some cases, they are coming to terms with the fact that their actions mean they may never step outside these walls again. They may die at Ironwood. And yet they are finding ways to be productive,” he adds.

The prison has become a haven of hope for 18 year old sentenced to adult prison for the first time. “Here they become students and enter the college program mentored by the lifers,

who have learned their lessons the hard way and don’t want this next generation to follow in their footsteps,” Budnick said.

Because the facility has elevated the importance of correctional education, a representative of TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design), an entity that presents informational talks by the best and brightest from various fields to wide audiences, “believes this was an idea worth spreading.”

In May, Ironwood State Prison hosted the first TEDx talk inside the walls of a California prison. Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, and a contingency of special guests transformed the prison gym into a sound stage with lights, cameras and microphones.

More than 300 people includ-

ing prisoners, visitors and staff were there, reported Budnick, entertained by inmates, who coordinated, hosted and spoke on the theme of “Infinite Possibilities.”

“The event highlighted the fact that correctional education programs have been shown to save dollars and greatly decrease recidivism rates, which means they increase public safety,” according to Budnick.

In California, while 95 percent of those sent to prison are released, two-thirds end up incarcerated again, reported Budnick.

Inmates at Ironwood advocated that education gives those who are released the best possible shot at a second chance. Budnick reported that he has seen this in his work with the InsideOUT Writers program, through which incarcerated young people learn to use creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation.

This event gave men a sense of self and purpose, according to Budnick.

“They showed that change is possible. Some had made reckless mistakes and others had made horrific choices that landed them at Ironwood. But they are showing the power of the human spirit while serving their time and working toward redemption. At TEDx, they shared their personal journeys and their faith in the future,” Budnick said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Prisoner’s Newspaper Frustration

‘I want to re-order, but I won’t until this is cleared up!’

San Quentin News,
This will be a quick note! I really can’t read the newspaper right now. I just wanted to get the newspaper so others could read. Right before I was [transferred] to this prison I sent you six stamps. While I did get two papers from High Desert, I haven’t got anything else since then. Please just let me know what is going on money-wise. I did get a paper the other day, but

that is the first paper I got that was sent here. Since October 2013 the only couple of papers I got were rerouted from “High Desert State Prison.” Please straighten this out for me. I want to re-order, but I won’t until this is cleared up!

Thank you, Billy D.

Editor’s Response:

We (San Quentin News staff) apologize for any delay and in-

convenience. We understand that with each transfer the mailing process of every prison mail differs. However, we are doing our part to get you your newspaper in a timely manner. In regard to your issue, we request \$1.61 in stamps to cover the postage cost of mailing the paper. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

—Design Editor,
Phoenix You

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Study: False Convictions Among Death Sentences Projected at 4.1 Percent

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

According to a collaborative research project initiated by the University of Michigan Law School and published earlier this year in PNAS, 4.1 percent of all death sentences in the U.S. are the result of false convictions.

The researchers, Samuel R. Gross, Barbara O' Brien of the University of Michigan, Chen Hu of American College and Edward H. Kennedy of University of Pennsylvania, consider their estimate a conservative one.

REPORT

The report examined data on all defendants sentenced to death between the years 1973-2004. Of those 7,482 defendants, 943 were executed, 298 died while on death row and 3,449 remained on death row. A total of 117 death row defendants were exonerated, while 2,675 defendants were removed from death row but not exonerated.

The report said that the high rate of exonerations appears to be driven by the threat of execution. "Everyone from defense lawyers to innocence projects to governors and state and federal judges is likely to be particularly careful to avoid the execution of innocent defendants." However, once defendants are removed from death row and resented to life imprisonment, the likelihood of exoneration drops sharply because the intensive search for possible errors is largely abandoned once the threat of execution is removed.

The researchers used multiple methods of analysis to reach a final conclusion that if all death-sentenced defendants were to remain under sentence of death indefinitely, at least 4.1 percent would be exonerated.

The report is careful to point out that their estimate of false convictions in death penalty cases cannot be applied to all criminal convictions. The rate of erroneous convictions overall is often described as a "dark figure"; it is an important measure of the performance of the criminal justice system that is "not merely unknown, but unknowable."

However, some heavy thinkers try to figure it out. These researchers noted that "in 2007, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a concurring opinion in the Supreme Court that American criminal convictions have an "error rate of [0].027 percent – or, to put it another way, a success rate of 99.973 percent."

"This would be comforting, if true," said the report. "In fact, the claim is silly. Scalia's ratio is derived by taking the number of known exonerations at the time, which were limited almost entirely to a small subset of murder and

rape cases, using it as a measure of all false convictions (known and unknown), and dividing it by the number of all felony convictions for all crimes, from drug possession and burglary to car theft and income tax evasion."

To accurately estimate the number of all false convictions, a researcher would need "a well-defined group of criminal convictions within which we identify all mistaken convictions, or at least most. It is hard to imagine how that could be done for criminal convictions generally, but it might be possible for capital murder," the report said.

"Death sentences represent less than one-tenth of 1 percent of prison sentences in the United States," according to the report. "But they accounted for about 12 percent of known exonerations of innocent defendants from 1989 through early 2012."

Such exonerations are achieved because more attention and resources are devoted to death penalty cases than to other criminal prosecutions, both before and after conviction.

"The vast majority of criminal convictions are not candidates for exoneration because no one makes any effort to reconsider the guilt of the defendants. Approximately 95 percent of felony convictions in the United States are based on negotiated pleas of guilty (plea bargains) that are entered in routine proceedings at which no evidence is presented. Few are ever subject to any review whatsoever," the report said. "Most convicted defendants are never represented by an attorney after conviction, and the appeals that do take place are usually perfunctory and unrelated to guilt or innocence."

DEATH SENTENCE

Death sentences are different. They result from a trial by jury and can be reviewed on appeal, often repeatedly. Most inmates on death row continue to have lawyers for the duration of their stay. Such attention and resources mean that "false convictions are far more likely to be detected among those cases ... than in any other category of criminal convictions."

The report stresses that the proportion of death-sentenced inmates who are exonerated understates the rate of false convictions among death sentences because the intensive search for possible errors is largely abandoned once the threat of execution is removed.

It is important to note that 35.8 percent of the death-sentenced defendants from 1973 to 2004 were removed from death row but remained in prison after their capital sentences or the underlying convictions were reversed or modified.

The point was made that "except for those who are exonerated – and a very small group who are resented to lesser penalties and eventually released – all prisoners who are sentenced to death do ultimately die in prison."

RESEARCHERS

As to the question, "how many innocent defendants have been put to death?" the researchers believe the number is comparatively low. "Our data and the experience of practitioners in the field both indicate that the criminal justice system goes to far greater lengths to avoid executing innocent defendants than to prevent them from remaining in prison indefinitely."

nately."

The report continued, "However, no process of removing potentially innocent defendants from the execution queue can be foolproof. With an error rate at trial over 4 percent, it is all but certain that several of the 1,320 defendants executed since 1977 were innocent."

The researchers added "the disturbing news that most innocent defendants who have been sentenced to death have not been exonerated, and many – including the great majority of those who have been resented to life in prison – probably never will be."

The report went on: "This is only part of a disturbing

picture. Fewer than half of all defendants who are convicted of capital murder are ever sentenced to death in the first place."

JURORS

Interviews with jurors indicate that "lingering doubts about the defendant's guilt" make them likely to choose a sentence of life in prison rather than death.

"The net result" said the researchers, "is that the great majority of innocent defendants who are convicted of capital murder in the United States are neither executed nor exonerated. They are sentenced, or resented to prison for life, and then forgotten."

Execution by Alternative Means

'This isn't an attempt to time-warp back into the 1850s or the wild, wild west or anything like that'

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Hangings, firing squads and gas chambers are being considered as means of execution by some states because of the unavailability of lethal injection drugs.

The drugs are in short supply and death penalty states are looking to make sure they can still execute people effectively, *The Associated Press* reports.

Controversy is widespread because of scenes like the January execution of Oklahoma inmate Michael Wilson. The issue has prompted legal actions and some drug companies' refusals to sell the lethal drugs to prisons.

"I feel my whole body burning," were Wilson's final words. Capital punishment opponents claim those words clearly indicate the process is not the clinical, painless operation portrayed by some state officials. Some elected officials say recent legal challenges and shortage of drugs make lethal injection too vulnerable to complications.

"This isn't an attempt to time-warp back into the 1850s or the wild, wild west or anything like that," commented Missouri State Representative Rick Brattin. He said he just sees a potential future problem and wants to be prepared.

Virtually all death penalty states switched to lethal drugs because of the negative perception of hanging, electrocution, gas and firing squads. However, despite the desire to make it more palatable, the horrors of execution seem inescapable. Another example: the recent Ohio execution of Dennis McGuire took 26 minutes to complete, with him repeatedly gasping for air.

The European Union threatened to impose export limits on propofol if it is to be used in executions.

The EU is anti-death pen-



File photo

Electric chair

alty, and sentiment against export of drugs used in lethal injection runs high, the AP reported. The drug propofol was suspect in the death of pop star Michael Jackson.

Many legislators are tapping into a popular feeling that "those who do terrible things deserve terrible things to happen to them," Michael Campbell, assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, told *The Associated Press*. However, Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., says, "These ideas would jeopardize the death penalty, because, I think, the public reaction would be revulsion."

Electrocution is an alternative to lethal injection for condemned prisoners in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Wyoming lawmakers recently offered a bill allowing execution by firing squad. Delaware, New Hampshire and Washington state still allow inmates to choose hanging. Arizona, Missouri and Wyoming also allow gas-chamber executions.

Since 1976, the *Marin Independent Journal* said there have been three firing squad executions in the U.S., all of them in Utah.

Some states are also beginning to use other drugs and will not disclose where they come from.

Hip-Hop Artists Locked Out For Second Time at S.Q.'s Day of Peace Event

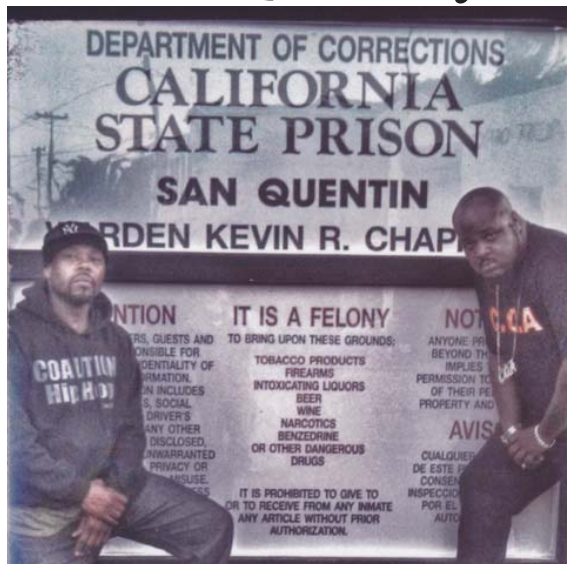
By Chris Schuhmacher
Contributing Writer

For some guys, coming to prison was a fast process. Do the crime ... then do the time. However, for a group of up-and-coming hip-hop artists from the East Coast known as the Coalition, getting inside San Quentin has been extremely difficult.

For two years in a row, the Coalition has accepted an invitation to play at the annual Day of Peace event. However, each time they were shut out due to an institutional lockdown.

"My guys were really looking forward to performing at San Quentin, but it's looking like this thing just wasn't meant to be," said Coalition manager Jason Fink.

The group was originally slated to play at the May 11, 2013, Day of Peace, but had to cancel their plane tickets after San Quentin went on a 10-day quarantine due to norovirus. The Day of Peace was held later that summer, but there wasn't



Adam and Congo poses in front of East gate

enough time for the Coalition to reschedule their trip.

The Coalition got together in 2009 in their hometown of

New Haven, Connecticut. The group includes seven MCs — Sheik Abdul, Big House, Tragic MC, Fireman, Yung Reese,

Pa aka Adam X and Congo — who showcase very different and dynamic styles reminiscent of early hip-hop.

"Coalition is the soundtrack to the street ... the struggle where single mothers juggle two and three jobs trying to make ends ... submerged in the water, but you have to swim ... the mind frame must change, so let it begin," are lyrics from Coalition's song "Struggle for Real."

As the titles of their albums, *Still Struggling* and *Struggle for Real*, reflect, the Coalition has not yet made it to the big time. However, they are building a strong grassroots following with shows at New Haven on the Green's May Day Festival and performances at the legendary Toad's Place.

As the 2014 Day of Peace, scheduled for May 10 rolled around, the Coalition accepted the invitation to travel across country to perform. They booked their flights and made it all the way to the gates of San Quentin before learning that the institution was on lock-

down once again. This time, the cause was an interracial scuffle involving C-status inmates in North Block.

"I was more nervous about being on a plane for the first time than I was performing at San Quentin. I couldn't believe we got shut out again," said Adam X. "I was hoping to meet some of the fellas, because I know we've all had our challenges to overcome."

The Day of Peace has been rescheduled for August 2, but the Coalition will be back on the East Coast preparing for their "Making Moves" tour featuring Mega Hood, BX, High Heel Rush, Garden State Pusher and poetry by Anne Lyrix. For more information, see www.wethecoalition.com and www.facebook.com/makingmoves-tour.

The Coalition will personally respond to all letters and autograph and photo requests from San Quentin and CDCR inmates. Send requests to Coalition Hip-Hop, P.O. Box 185324, Hamden, CT, 06518.

Reports Show Restorative Justice Programs Prove Effective

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Repeat offender numbers in Australia are down as much as 55 percent, thanks to restorative justice proceedings, according to a recent ABC News report. Restorative justice entails mediated sessions between offenders and victims and/or friends and families of victims, to generate empathy and process the trauma of the crime.

"When a real victim of serious crime is in the room, it can have a big effect on re-offending. Now we have results from studies of the highest quality around the world to show that it works," said Professor John Braithwaite of Australia National University. He was instrumental in introducing restorative justice to the courts in the 1990s and was involved in the groundbreaking restorative justice findings.

In the United States, the re-

storative justice movement is on the rise. For instance, in San Quentin State Prison, Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) prepares offenders to meet community members who stand-in as victims of crime. The interactions give offenders the opportunity to address issues surrounding their criminal convictions. This process of self-inquiry occurs through a series of exercises ranging from crime impact statements to childhood trauma.

VOEG participants report these meetings have been powerful. The platform provides room for catharsis and healing, for offenders and victims alike.

"VOEG helped me to connect my childhood traumas to nefarious behavior throughout my life," said VOEG graduate Cedric Walker, an ex-gang member serving a life sentence for murder.

"The program gave me a platform to address issues and

questions I had about abandonment. The victims panel (in which surrogate victims meet offenders to share in a dialogue about their crime/event), had a profound effect on me," Walker added.

"I was able to understand firsthand the pain the victims felt, and I am now able to empathize with them. Meeting with the surrogate victim, I was able to find remorse and accountability for my actions. I now dedicate most of my life to public service by trying to detour young at-risk children from gang activity and violence."

The restorative justice approach seems poised to radically change the way offenders process crime, Braithwaite said, "Because crime hurts, justice should heal."

VOEG offers an opportunity for the victim and the offender to come face-to-face and confront the effects the crime had on both parties. The victims



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Cedric Walker inside the chapel supporting Nick Lopez at the GRIP graduation

have the opportunity to tell the offenders just how their life has been impacted due to their improprieties. The process also allows the offender an opportu-

nity to make amends by showing remorse for the victims, as well as uncover the issues that may have led to the criminal act/behavior in the first place.

CDCR Proposed Rules Restricting Reading Material

Continued from Page 1

communicate with them," Knox wrote.

Knox argued that the proposed regulations "reach far beyond and threaten to ban political speech and/or speech that is critical of the California prison system."

In its Initial Statement of Reasons for the proposed regulations, the CDCR said it is attempting to prohibit publications that "indicate an association with groups that are oppositional to authority and society."

According to the regulations, the CDCR will create a "Centralized List of Disapproved

Publications" in the prison system. An example of a banned publication would be anything the CDCR deems "recruitment material for a Security Threat Group (STG)." Under these regulations, banned reading material would be considered contraband.

Current regulations prevent the CDCR from disallowing inmates' incoming mail if the Department "disagree[s] with the sender's or receiver's morals, values, attitudes, veracity or choice of words."

In a 1999 case, *Crofton v. Roe*, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit struck down a regulation that disallowed an inmate from receiving a gift book.

Citing the fact that courts have relied on the First and 14th Amendment rights of publishers "to communicate with inmates" on numerous occasions, Knox pointed to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1974 ruling in *Procunier v. Martinez* which states in part:

"Whatever the status of a prisoner's claim to uncensored correspondence with an outsider, it is plain that the latter's interest is grounded in the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech."

Knox said the regulations are likely to fail because "they are both vague and overbroad" as an indicator of an inmate's association with members or as-

sociates of STGs.

According to Knox's research, "a law is unconstitutionally vague if it prohibits protected conduct ... or if it allows for punishment of speech that is merely unpopular."

The e-mail concluded with Knox's assessment of the CDCR's previously validating inmates as STG members due to their choice of reading material that included possession of anything written by prisoner and political activist George Jackson.

"Prison walls do not form a barrier separating prison inmates from the protections of the Constitution," Knox wrote, citing other U.S. Supreme Court

case precedents.

Knox said *Bay View* newspaper "provides thought-provoking stories and commentary, with a focus on the black community."

The *Bay View* was founded in 1976. According to its website, it is "the second most visited black newspaper on the web." It has won two awards for Excellence in Journalism and Freedom of Information from the Society of Professional Journalists, three Best of the Bay awards from the *Bay Guardian*, one National Black Newspaper of the Year from the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and a Best Community Newspaper from the Media Alliance.

Alcatraz Presents a Theatrical Play: ‘In the Kitchen With a Knife’

By Leslie Lakes
Contributing Writer

It was the first time I had ever been to Alcatraz and I was so excited, especially because this was to be no ordinary tourist trip by ferry across the choppy waters to the infamous “Rock.”

I was traveling with a group of people who had purchased tickets from the William James Association to attend a special performance of the play “*In the Kitchen With A Knife*.” The play is one of many different theatrical and literary creative writing projects put on by The Poetic Justice Project. According to its mission statement, “Poetic Justice Project advances social justice by engaging formerly incarcerated youth and adults in arts education, mentoring and the creation of original theater examining crime, punishment and redemption.”

“*In the Kitchen With A Knife*” is an interactive murder-mystery and the action takes place in a prison setting. What better place to perform it than the infamous Alcatraz itself?

Playwrights Deborah Tobola and Dylan O’Harra, a mother-and-son team, wrote the play. The director was Leslie Carson, a retired drama teacher who volunteers to teach theater at a women’s prison and a girls’ juvenile facility.

“*In the Kitchen With A Knife*” has a cast of 13. Sound designer Tim Seawall created sound effects that made the experience of being inside a prison incredibly realistic. Live acoustic music (guitar and makeshift percussion on the outside of a box), as well as singing by vocalists MarciJean Fambrini and Maux Samuel, enhanced the play and drew a positive response from the audience.

The play began with four inmates filing on stage. All of them work in the prison



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Captain Rojas (Guillermo Willie) and Alejandro Alcantra

kitchen. An inmate called Telly threatens to give the other three “cause for grief” if they do not comply with his de-

stuffed in a kitchen laundry cart. The sirens blow and an immediate lockdown is enforced. Capt. Rojas (Guillermo Willie) and Lt. Vincent (David Louk) call out all three inmates individually for interrogation.

While this is going on, the warden (Dion Schwulst), apparently more concerned about bad press than anything else, pressures Capt. Rojas to determine which of the three accused inmates committed the crime. To complicate the issue, the DNA of all three inmates is on the knife that allegedly killed Telly.

After all three inmates are interrogated, they return to their individual cells. The audience then hears their respective soliloquies that give insight into their personal backgrounds, thoughts, beliefs, hopes, dreams and possible motivation(s) for killing Telly.

In a clever dramatic device, each inmate encounters his respective “conscience” (in this case a character named “Dodger,” performed by actor Caroline Taylor-Hitch, garbed in sweats and a dark hoodie.)

The scene then moves back to the prison kitchen where the accused inmates, Conrad Fielding (Roger Brown), Alejandro Alcantra (Jorge Manly Gil) and Hubert “Huey” Strickland (Leonard Flippen IV), engage in conversation. Alejandro is busy peeling potatoes and using a chef’s knife as he prepares a meal. “Huey,” a former thief, practices his gambling dice throws.



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Lt. Vincent (David Louk) and “Huey” (Leonard Flippen)

mands. In the next scene, the body of Telly is found murdered and



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Actors perform live music for the audience

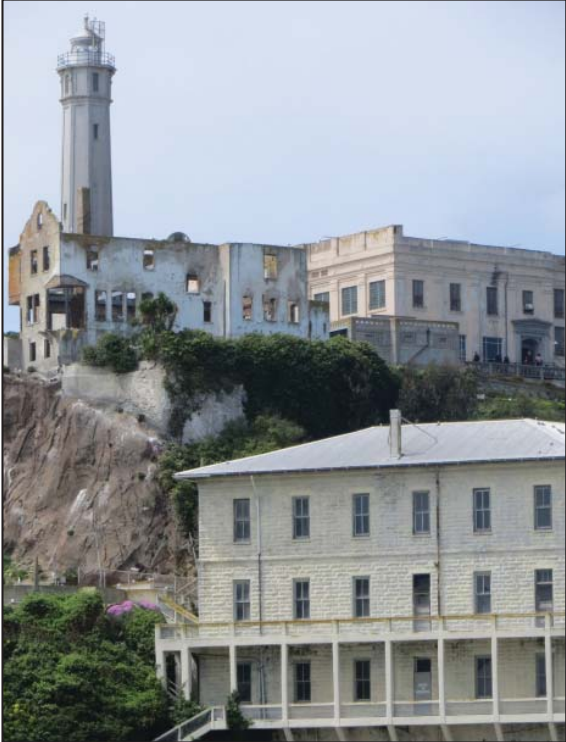


Photo by Leslie Lakes

Side view of Alactraz

Conrad is an older inmate, a veteran who suffers from angst and emotional guilt about having abandoned soldiers under his direct supervision. He rationalizes his past experiences and actions in order to hold it all together.

Near the end of the play, a brief intermission allows the audience to cast a ballot indicating which inmate they believe killed Telly. Depending on how the audience votes, there are three possible endings to the play.

At the conclusion of the play, during curtain call, came the surprising announcement that every single one of the actors had previously been incarcerated — whether for a day, a month, a year, or even decades.

Then the audience was asked several questions:

- 1) What is the most important thing you learned from the actors and their performance?
I do not know what others wrote, but for me, I learned, or realized all over, that some very gifted, talented, creative, artistic and intelligent people are incarcerated in prisons throughout the U.S. Also, however we may interpret circumstantial evidence, things are not always what they seem.
- 2) In what way has your attitude about prison and/or prisoners changed, if at all, based on this performance?
Again, for me, this is a question that pretty much preaches to the choir. My attitudes and beliefs have not changed, but have only been confirmed.
- 3) Would you recommend this play to family or friends?
My response: a resounding “YES!”



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Alejandro Alcantra (Jorge Manly Gil) and Officer Dover (Renee Lopez)

San Quentin Welcomes Avon's Annual Breast Cancer Walk



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Carlos Ramirez, Manuel Murillo, volunteer Maria, Kris Himmelberger, Eusebio Gonzalez and Jose Flores enjoying the day

Continued from Page 1

ganizers created San Quentin CARES to show that inmates doing time still have the capacity to raise money for organizations in need.

"We are honored to be able to help with this cause," said inmate Troy Williams. "It makes the men in blue feel like they're still a part of the community."

According to Chief Medical Officer Elaine Tootell, the event raised about \$5,300 from people outside and nearly \$2,000 from the inmates. "I know that \$2,000 is a lot of

money for inmates. I was impressed that you gave so much, when you have so little," Tootell told the walkers.

"To put on an event like this, you have to have a lot of patience in order to get through the obstacles," inmate Stephen Pascasio said. "We couldn't have done it without the administration helping us. Also the men in blue worked hard doing all the leg work. Inmates Michael Nelson, Sam Johnson, Billy Allen, Clinton Martin and the guys put in a lot of time to this worthy cause. A lot of the guys here are walking for their mothers, daughters, sisters and loved ones who've

been affected by breast cancer. It's amazing to me, seeing the guys work together."

Jill Friedman has been volunteering inside San Quentin for 15 years. She said about six and a half years ago she started volunteering with the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

"I was honored that I was asked to help with the Avon walk," Friedman said. "I want more people on the outside to know what's happening in here. One of the things about us as human beings is that all of us have more in common than what we have different."

Inmate organizer Clinton Martin, 41, said this was his



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Participants walk laps to support the event

fourth walk. "I think for me what stands out is that this year was more organized. It went off without a hitch. This is the first one with no [security] alarms. It was good to see the level of respect from the San Quentin community."

Martin added, "I lost my grandmother, great-aunt and aunt to breast cancer. That was my driving force for wanting to belong to this committee. It is an honor to cherish their lives by walking and by organizing this event. Today is about giving back to my community and trying with every fiber in my being to make amends to the harm that I've caused. I firmly believe that I'll be putting pennies in the jar for the rest of my life."

Volunteer Rachel Bailey said that her grandmother passed away from cancer three years ago. "My grandmother came in for a San Quentin walk. For the last three months of her life, she just talked about how much you guys affected her," Bailey said.

While the event was underway, a basketball game was being played between an outside Christian team and one of the

inmate teams. All the players joined the walkers.

"For halftime, we decided to walk one lap for breast cancer



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Julio "Huggie" Davis talks about breast cancer and how it affected his family



Photo by Raphaela Casala

Volunteers pose for the camera in front of East Gate



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Frankie Smith addresses the crowd about his battle with cancer

awareness," said inmate Derek Loud. "Then we'll finish the game."

Why Inmates Say They Donate and Walk:

Julio "Huggie" Davis, 49: I'm doing this for my mother. She passed from breast cancer

in 2008. When I first caught this life sentence, I told my mother about it. The last time I saw her was before I left the county jail. Then I was transferred to High Desert State Prison where we stayed on lockdown. I was able to make it to San Quentin in 2006. But my mother had cancer and was too sick to come see me. I always had these dreams about my mother. I would try to get home to her through my dreams. Every night I'd have these dreams, but I couldn't actually get there. But the day I got the call that my mother passed, I finally got home in my dream. I got there to hug my mother.

Ricky "Malik" Harris, 42: I'd like to recognize a very close family friend, Alex Perkins, who succumbed to cancer, and my father who is battling lung cancer. I just wanted to honor them.

Johnny Willis, 42: I donated because my mother, Wanda Willis, died of cancer, and my wife, Maynette Willis, is a cancer survivor.

Anthony Thomas, 40: I'm on



Photo by Sam Hearnes

John Levin, Rudy Camozzi and Scott Fredette supporting the Breast Cancer Walk

my 13th lap. Before the end of the walk, I want to put in 200. I'm walking to show faith and to give others insight to why we need to cure breast cancer.

Nicola Bucci, 41: My grandmother survived cancer in 1952. She was born 1910 and died 2008.

Inmate Berry, 34: I'm walking for my fiancée, Felie.

Martin Walters, 46: I'm walking for my sister, Michelle, who survived breast cancer, and my mom, who is a survivor of cancer also.

Robert Morales, 44: My mother passed away from lung cancer. So, in remembrance of my mother and people who suffer from it, I support them.

Alberto Mendez, 59: I have a mom and I have daughters.

Plus, I consider the most amazing human being is the woman. I support the cause. One day we will find a cure for this horrible disease.

Frankie Smith, 58, said that he was diagnosed twice with cancer in 2006 and 2011. "I support the Avon walk so that people become aware that screening is important. Cancer is not a death sentence. I'm a living witness to the fact it can be beaten."

Danny Chaviarria, 58: I have a wife, daughters and granddaughters out there. I support them. It's the right thing to do.

James Parker, 52: I'm walking for my mother, my aunt, my mother-in-law and my ex-wife. My mom, aunt, moth-

er-in-law have passed from cancer, and my ex-wife is currently undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Sam Johnson, 57: Dad died of cancer in 1986. I never saw my father sick. My dad went for 264 pounds to 74 pounds. That's why I do what I do, to bring awareness to cancer.

James Metters, 43: In 2013 I lost my aunt to liver cancer. I was very close to her. This year, I lost my uncle to liver cancer as well. I feel bad that it took me losing people in my family in order to understand that the Avon walk for a cure of breast cancer needed my support. I will continue supporting the cancer walk every year and even after I am released from prison.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Benjamin "Benji" Obsuna donates his hair to breast cancer



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Stephen Pascasio, Jill Friedman, Dr. E. Tootell and Sam Johnson inside the ARC building

Arts & Entertainment

Sudoku Corner

5		3	7				9	
	7		9		4			5
					5			8
1			3		9		8	
	5				7	1		
			1			9		3
9		7		1			5	
		5			8		7	
	1		5			8		9

	4		7			2		5
	3			9			7	
7		2	3		5	6		
	7		8			9		6
6		9		5			2	
8			9		7		5	
	5			7		3		2
2		8			4		6	
	6		1					4

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

4	5	7	2	3	1	6	8	9
6	1	3	8	9	4	2	5	7
9	8	2	5	7	6	1	3	4
3	7	9	1	6	2	8	4	5
2	6	5	7	4	8	9	1	3
8	4	1	9	5	3	7	2	6
7	2	6	4	1	5	3	9	8
1	9	4	3	8	7	5	6	2
5	3	8	6	2	9	4	7	1

3	8	6	2	5	4	9	1	7
9	4	7	1	6	3	8	5	2
5	2	1	7	8	9	3	6	4
8	9	5	4	1	7	6	2	3
1	7	2	8	3	6	5	4	9
4	6	3	5	9	2	7	8	1
6	1	4	3	7	8	2	9	5
7	5	9	6	2	1	4	3	8
2	3	8	9	4	5	1	7	6

From Around the World is a new section in San Quentin News. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany, Africa and Dominican Republic have answered the call. Let's hear from the rest of the world.

Snippets

Hail Mary is the first words of the Latin version of a prayer to the Virgin Mary used in the Roman Catholic Church.

After Mary, the Queen of Scots, was beheaded, her pet companion, a skye terrier, was found underneath her gown.

In a 1947, Larry Doby became the first African-American player in the American League with the Cleveland Indians.

Like it or not, King Edwards II of England hated soccer so much that he issued a proclamation in 1314 imprisoning anyone caught playing the sport.

Many may not know that slam-dunk in basketball was illegal in 1967. In 1976 dunking became ofically legal.

Armed force free Iceland, declared itself a nuclear-free zone in 1985.

Reaching more than 3,500,000 square miles is the Sahara Desert. It's the second largest desert in the world.

Young Pocahontas was around ten or eleven years old when she saved John Smith from being executed.

The San Quentin News making its appearance in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic



Photo courtesy of Mary and Colleen

Top: Jeff and an unknown person
Bottom: Moises, San Quentin volunteer Kathleen Jackson, Jorge and Mary enjoying the day under the sun

An Unexpected Family

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

A lone woman’s eccentric relationship with a “non-speaking” boy and his stepfather is the intimate setting that immerses readers in an artistic dialect connecting an ancestral past to a pursuit of self-discovery.

The storyline of *The Bone People* by Keri Hulme pushes forward ever so leisurely while its melancholy undercurrent deceives readers into thinking we know what’s happening. Nevertheless, once the peculiar language sinks in, its unforeseeable arcs start to make sense.

Hulme uses unexpectedness as a literary device. “Between waking and being awake there is a moment full of doubt and dream, when you struggle to remember what the place and when the time and whether you really are,” she writes. This

BOOK REVIEW

confused state of mind reflects how the main characters interact with each other.

The Bone People is full of instances when traditional perspectives are missing. Father and son, Joe and Simon, aren’t typical. When Joe beats Simon it is shocking, but that doesn’t strip Joe of humanity. Nor is the hermit, Kerewin, your typical lady across the street. Even though the characters often make us uncomfortable, we can identify with them as they quietly give way to bits of loveliness in the dark corners of their lives.

Simon contemplates life with Joe and Kerewin childishly — with simple language. His straightforwardness, at best, helps readers understand how to come to terms with pain and suffering coupled with love and compassion:

And home is Joe, Joe of the hard hands but sweet love. Joe who can comfort. Joe who takes care. The strong man, the man who cries with him, and home has become Kerewin, Kerewin the distant who is so close. The woman who is wise, who doesn’t tell him lies. The strong woman, the woman of the sea and fire.

Hulme has created an effortless yet intricate mindset through Kerewin’s reclusive nature. At the same time, readers are treated to Kerewin’s insight and life choices as she explains the relationship between the boy and his stepfather:

Well, there’s them ... and I think it was a mistake. I brought them ... but how can I send them away now? But my family is gone. I am alone ... It’s the bloody horrible way

you’ve remembered everything bad about everybody, and kept it and festered it all your life ... Twenty-five years. That’s a long time. A quarter of a century. A generation. They were the only people who knew me, knew anything of me, and they kept on loving me until I broke it ... do they love me now?

Kerewin’s loneliness is prevalent through out *The Bone People*, but as the pages turn, her outlander character never loses an anticipation or expectation of hope.

Hulme’s mystical writing style grabs readers and brings a sense of bewilderment. An example is the following passage about the bond between the trio:

The gas heater hisses. The kitchen is warm, but the air is thick; smells of burnt fat, and underlying stink of coal gas. Yet, with people in it, the kitchen is a friendly and comfortable room, she decides, and remembers her first impression of it. Spartan it may be, but at the moment, the very bareness emphasizes the com-

panionship between her and the man, and the boy.

Hulme brings it all together with an understanding that the human spirit has an infinite capacity for the re-start, or the second chance. Rehabilitation, change and transformation are Kerewin’s final truth:

If I was an honest uncompromising soul, if I wasn’t riddled by this disease called hope, I’d climb into the middle of my pyre and light a phoenix fire from there. On the other hand, my cardinal virtue is hope. Forlorn hope, hope in extremity. Not Christian hope, but an innate rebellion against the inevitable dooms of suffering, death, and despair. A senseless hope. If I hadn’t my hope, I might have lasted 10 seconds there ... the air is all gone from round it ... splendid dragon ... the glory of the salamander.

The Bone People combines its plot with a constant feeling of hope along with deep-rooted convictions. Witnessing these emotions through the eyes of strong characters makes it an entertaining read.

People Who Cross Borders

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

There’s a great deal of concern, confusion and controversy over the issue of immigration — whether legal or otherwise. The recent influx of more than 50,000 undocumented children has left Democrats and Republicans at odds over what to do about the situation. Some define it as a refugee crisis while others claim it a failure of current immigration policy.

Clearly, a deep sense of fear, ignorance and uncertainty is fueling the national debate. Whether these immigrants are coming into the United States from the border regions of Mexico or migrating from South and Central America, there’s a struggle between law and compassion. Let us first ask ourselves: What possible reason would someone have for leaving his or her beloved

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

homeland for a distant and strange land?

Allow me, a prisoner, to weigh in on this issue of immigration from my personal experience. In 1974, I escaped from San Quentin State Prison and fled the country to Guyana in South America. Almost immediately upon my arrival in the Guyana capital of Georgetown, I joined the bustling refugee community.

In 1976, Guyana began to experience a severe economic decline. Corruption, high unemployment and shortages of basic goods led to political unrest. Sugar workers, who comprised mainly the East India segment of Guyanese society, went out on strike for more than four months; consumer goods virtually disappeared from store shelves. Guyana

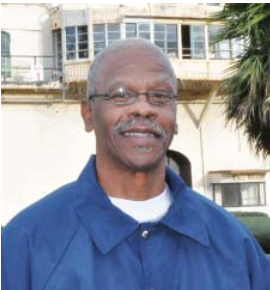


Photo by Raphaelae Casala

Watani Stiner

became the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere after Haiti. I lived there for another four years before the political and economic situation in that country deteriorated, forcing me to cross the border to neighboring Suriname.

After my arrival in Suriname,

I met a woman, and we settled down to raise seven children. As the Surinamese economy continued to worsen, cholera and tuberculosis epidemics swept through the country. The school system, without money for books or teachers, ground to a halt. I tried various ways to provide for my family as the country’s violence escalated and the economy deteriorated. By 1993, my family was living in a small “bush house” without electricity or running water, growing vegetables for market and selling herbal medicine and coffee.

I began to worry about the health and future of my children. I pondered about ways of getting my children to the United States. But as a fugitive, I could not simply move with my family out of the country, and I did not want to leave them behind. Would my freedom be worth the welfare of my children?

The situation in Suriname was becoming more and more desperate by the day. After

convincing my wife that my surrender would ensure a better life for our children, which I could only achieve by turning myself in, I decided to enter the U.S. Embassy in Paramaribo. Desperate and afraid, I had to get my children out of the country.

Eventually they were allowed entry into the U.S. While some of my children did well here, others struggled. You never know what the outcome will be of the choices that you make, but for me the hope for a better future was far better than no hope at all.

I am back in prison, and only because I love my children more than I hate my incarceration.

The parents of those young people making the incredibly dangerous trip to seek asylum in the United States have one thing in mind, one thing that drives all of us parents — the survival and safety of our children. No human thought or emotion is more powerful than that.

Overcoming Injustice Through the Eyes of a Butler

MOVIE REVIEW

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The Butler is a gripping history lesson, loosely based on a story that parallels a black man’s effort to survive racial injustice by becoming a White House butler while his son took more direct action in the civil rights movement.

The film provides a look into valid arguments of so-called “sellouts” and “Uncle Toms” and how they contributed to the civil rights movement.

Lee Daniels directed this movie written by Danny Strong, who added several details to the script.

Forrest Whitaker plays Cecil Gaines, the butler. His will to fight racism directly was destroyed on a cotton plantation when his father (David Banner) was shot dead right in front of

him for speaking up about his wife, (Mariah Carey without makeup) being raped by the Georgia plantation owner (Alex Pettyfer.) Thereafter, as an act of implied kindness, the head woman of the house (Vanessa Redgrave) took the 10-year-old Cecil from the cotton fields and made him into a “house nigger.”

In real life, Cecil worked on a plantation in Virginia and there is no confirmation of his father being murdered, according to a *TheDailyBeast.com* article called *The Butler Fact Check*.

Once Cecil is old enough, he leaves and become a butler to survive. He later marries Gloria, played by Oprah Winfrey, and works his way up to being a servant for the White House. He overhears many presidents, from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan, making policy and at times was asked his opinion.

His oldest son, Lewis, (David Oyelowo) resents his father’s subservient position and takes

up the cause, first under Martin Luther King Jr. as a Freedom Rider, then as a Black Panther, after King’s murder.

Cecil and Lewis became at odds over the split in ideology. Cecil certainly didn’t pay for Lewis to go to Fisk College to get himself arrested and beaten up over and over again. Lewis isn’t proud of having a father who waits on the oppressors.

When Lewis brings his beautiful Black Panther Party girlfriend home for dinner, Cecil and Lewis’ beef comes to a head over a comment Lewis makes about Sidney Poitier being the white man’s fantasy of what they want blacks to be like. Cecil flips and throws Lewis out of the house. Gloria is in the middle but lets Lewis know, “Everything you are, everything you have is because of that butler.”

Lewis’ little brother, Charlie, wants to “fight for his country” instead of “fighting it” and goes off to Vietnam, where he

is killed.

Lewis eventually walks away from the Black Panther Party because he wasn’t willing to use “darkness to extinguish darkness.” He gets his master’s degree in political science and runs for Congress.

In real life, Cecil only had one son and that was Charles, who really did serve in Vietnam, but is still alive, according to *The Butler Fact Check*.

The film suggests that black domestics helped the civil rights movement through defying racial stereotypes by showing hardworking and trustworthy black men. According to King in the movie, butlers “slowly tear down racism by their strong character and dignity. They think they are subservient, but are really subversive and don’t even know it.”

Cecil’s victory comes from being a good provider for his family, but the cost was losing both his sons, leaving his wife home alone a lot and tucking his pride.

He rethinks his position after a visit to the plantation where he was raised, and when Ronald Reagan supported Apartheid in South Africa. He then retires and joins Lewis’ efforts.

Personally, I respect Cecil’s desire to go-along-to-get-along for the well-being of his family and their future. I just hoped he would have respected his son’s desire to take immediate action a lot sooner, especially since as a kid, Cecil witnessed his father murdered and his mother go crazy because of it.

Also appearing in the film is Terrance Howard as the low-life cheater who lived next door to Cecil, and Cuba Gooding Jr., who plays Carter, another White House butler who became like an uncle to Cecil’s boys. Other stars appearing in the film include Robin Williams, Lenny Kravitz, Jane Fonda, Alan Rickman and John Cusack. All the performances were good, with Oyelowo standing out among the worthy cast.

Progress Made in the 2014 California Health Care System

**By Juan Haines
Managing Editor**

Although there have been significant improvements in the delivery of medical care to California prisoners, “It is clear that much work remains to be done to resolve issues identified,” reported the court-appointed receiver who runs California’s prison health care system.

The receiver identified the following areas in need of improvement:

Implementation of new programs to improve cleanliness and hygiene at all facilities;

Implementation of a population care management system which will, among other things, address difficulties in continuity of care when inmates move between yards and institutions;

Implementation of an Electronic Health Records System (EHRS) to improve scheduling and medication management, among other things;

Implementation of a new layer of regional oversight and assistance.

The Receiver’s Twenty-Sixth Tri-Annual Report identified “two very high profile” cases

between health care and custody staff to illustrate some of the problems:

“The Sept. 7, 2013, death of an inmate housed in the Correctional Treatment Center at Mule Creek State Prison and the Oct. 15, 2013, death of an inmate at Pleasant Valley State Prison both underscore the interdependence between clinical and custody staff who should be working collaboratively in the preservation of life. In each of these situations, it has been suggested that health care staff were precluded by custody staff from providing the care they were hired to provide.”

According to the court-appointed receiver, many of the past problems continue to improve related to custody and health care operations at California Health Care Facility (CHCF). Nevertheless, the receiver expressed “concerns about whether these improvements are sustainable in the long-term.”

The receiver reported problems implementing the EHRS have caused several months to be lost in adding new medical and mental health beds to the state prison system. Nevertheless, the receiver reported that

CHCF should be fully activated by early 2015.

When the receiver analyzed medical facility construction statewide that would address treatment and clinic space, all of the facilities visited had serious upgrade issues. The exception was San Quentin State Prison, which had upgrades constructed under the receivership, according to the report.

The receiver found that California prisons remain significantly overcrowded, and at the end of the reporting period of April 30, 2014, the department’s total custody population stood at 134,888, of which 116,246 were in the state’s 34 prisons. There was also an increase of 639 patient-inmates since the last reporting period of Sept. 1 through Dec 1, 2013.

On Feb. 10, the court issued an order granting the state an extension until Feb. 28, 2016, to meet a population cap of 137.5 percent of designed capacity. The order required the state to meet the following interim benchmarks:

143 percent of design bed capacity by June 30, 2014, later extended to August 31, 2014. The court had recently informed CDCR that unoccu-

pied beds at CHCF could not count as part of the department’s overall design capacity so long as CHCF was closed to new medical admissions. As a result, CDCR fell just short of meeting the June 30 benchmark of a prison population at 143 percent of design capacity. When the court issued its order, it also allowed CDCR’s request for a two-month extension.

141.5 percent of design bed capacity by Feb. 28, 2015;

137.5 percent of design bed capacity by Feb. 28, 2016.

The order required the state to immediately implement the following components:

Cap out-of-state placements at 8,900;

Increase credit-earning for non-violent second strike offenders and minimum-custody patient-inmates;

Implement new parole determination process for non-violent second strikers who have served half of their sentence;

Parole certain inmates serving indeterminate terms who have been granted future parole dates by the Board of Parole Hearings;

Expansion of existing medical parole process;

Implementation of a new parole process for patient-inmates 60 years of age or older who have served at least 25 years in state prison;

Activation of new re-entry hubs at a total of 13 prisons to be operational by February 2015;

Expansion of pilot re-entry programs with additional counties/local communities; and expansion of alternative custody program for female inmates,

Submit monthly status reports on its progress to implement the provisions listed above. The court also said that it would appoint a “compliance officer” empowered to order necessary releases. (In a subsequent order, the court appointed the Honorable Elwood Liu as the compliance officer.)

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (federal) Covered California (state), prison health care service providers anticipated challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.

Nursing vacancies are posted on multiple websites, including school career websites, www.ChangingPrisonHealthCare.org, www.Indeed.com and www.VetJobs.com.

Life Insurance Rarely Available For Prison Inmates

‘With felons, you run up against that unknown moral factor’

**By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor**

Life insurers rarely cover inmates in prison, so they are unlikely to leave anything behind but their dead bodies.

“We do not offer life insurance coverage to any incarcerated individual,” said Janet Gillespie of Prudential individual life insurance, according to a June 9 *Fox Business* website article *Does Life Insurance Cover Prison Inmates?* by Jay MacDonald. “Our underwriter feels this is industry wide.”

Issuing a policy to someone in prison is “just not the kind of risk that the industry would take,” said Jack Dewald, president of Agency Services Inc., in Memphis, Tenn., according to the *Fox* article.

Problems insurers cite is that

there is no easy way to conduct a health exam on a prisoner, inmate access to financial assets is typically restricted and imprisonment casts broad uncertainty over the motives of both the insured and their beneficiaries. Additionally, there are the inherent dangers that come with being in prison, the uncertain mental health of the population and the “moral hazard” of insuring someone who has run afoul of the law, according to the article.

Inmates in California could overcome some of the obstacles. Inmates can get check-ups at their facilities. Copies of their medical records can be released by signing a form, according to California Code of Regulations, Title 15 3261.2 *Authorized Release of Information*.

In addition, inmates can earn an income sufficient to pay premiums from prison. Wages range from \$12-\$56 a month for average prison jobs and as much as \$153 a month if working for the Prison Industry Authority. “We can make up to 95 cents per hour for an average 34-hour work week,” said Antonio Manning, a PIA worker. Joint Venture and even selling handicraft could also provide sufficient income for prisoners to pay premiums (CCR Title 15, 3104(a) *Inmate Handicraft sales*).

Also, inmate accounts can function like bank accounts. Inmates can sign trust withdrawals to have checks sent where they want. Additionally, once the inmate registers his or her Social Security number, the State Treasury

pays out interest on the funds in his or her account, according to CCR Title 15, 3099 *Inmate Trust Accounts*.

“We can make up to 95 cents per hour for an average 34-hour work week”

Insurance companies say they are willing to insure daredevils, but not inmates because, “The high-risk element is something we can get our head around because it’s not a moral issue; the guy wants to live and he wants the stunt to go well. With felons, you run up against that unknown moral

factor,” said Ted Tafaro, CEO of Exceptional Risk Advisors, a Mahwah, N.J., specialty insurer and Lloyd’s of London underwriter, according to the article.

There are a few exceptions. Those who entered prison with preexisting individual policies in place are guaranteed coverage if they pay their premiums and don’t die while committing an intentional criminal act, expressed Dewald in the article.

Group life coverage through an employer is typically lost unless converted to an individual policy before entering prison, according to the article.

A modest death benefit is available in some states from ProCon Membership Community in West Palm Beach, Fla., for a monthly fee of \$9.99 to \$12.99, says the article.

Generation We Empowers Youth to Become ‘The Next Generation of Leaders’

Eric Greenberg’s story is one that Americans love to hear — an entrepreneur’s journey from modest beginnings to extreme success, shattered by breathtaking loss and ending in an 11th hour comeback with a book that tells the tale.

Greenberg is the author *Generation We: How Millennial Youth Are Taking over America and Changing Our World Forever*. The book tells about how young people can empower themselves and others through entrepreneurial ventures, civic involvement and taking an active role in transforming the way we educate the next generation of leaders.

Greenberg has spent his entire career in Silicon Valley tech. In 2006, he suffered a \$15 million loss in an entrepreneurial venture and hit rock bottom. After traveling the world, losing a substantial amount of weight, and taking stock of his experiences, Greenberg wrote down all he’d learned in *Generation We*, and published the book in 2008.

Greenberg recently ventured inside San Quentin State Prison to tell his story to participants in The Last Mile (TLM), a self-help program that teaches inmates about bringing socially responsible ideas into the business world. In the Q-&-A session after Greenberg’s presentation, the

inmates asked questions about how they can use entrepreneurship and social innovation as avenues to self-empowerment.

Greenberg also spoke about what prompted him to write the book: “The young people in the world are not engaged enough. I wrote this book to motivate them.” Unsurprisingly, Greenberg believes people must take the initiative to help themselves; however, he also believes the first step is removing roadblocks to educational opportunities.

Greenberg spoke about his ups and downs in the business world. Reflecting on his comeback from the \$15 million loss, he said, “The only reason people choose

negativity is doubt. I never gave up on myself. I worked on myself for seven years. There is no successful entrepreneur who’s angry. The key thing to work on is getting rid of doubt and anger. Learn how to love yourself. Everyone can do something to make their lives better.”

Greenberg’s also talked about seeing the ugliness and the darker side of human behavior — from famine to genocide — during his world travel. This gave him the insight to make meaning out of his own darkest moments. “You had to look at it in the eye. You can’t fight darkness if you shutter from it. How can I talk about it if I didn’t see it?”

Ultimately, Greenberg concluded that hope and belief in oneself are the keys so self-empowerment.

“Now matter what, you’re still human beings, and everybody has a redeeming value,” Greenberg said. “I urge you all to be the change you want to see. The Last Mile is a program that will help you get there. The day we lose our optimism is the day we lose.”

A full book review of *Generation We: How Millennial Youth Are Taking over America and Changing Our World Forever* will be published in a future edition of *San Quentin News*.

—Juan Haines

Prisoners and Marin Shakespeare Collaborate In Modern Version of ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of Bay Area community members came inside San Quentin State Prison on June 25, mingling with nearly 100 convicted criminals to watch a Shakespearean play performed by inmate/actors, working with interns from The Marin Shakespeare Company.

“When the interns first got here, they watched us with nervousness. But, by the end of it, they come here to be with us,” said inmate/actor Rodney “RC” Capell.

The play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, used rock and classic rock, easy listening and rap music to help drive the plot direction.

The use of modern-day outfits along with 17th century garb, plus a man in drag, slightly altered the comedy’s visual effect, but not the storyline about a two-timing husband that contained plenty of sexual innuendo in 17th century England.

Directors Lesley Currier and Suraya Keating were very creative by using song lyrics to invoke a particular mood in a scene. When a love scene used “Baby I need your loving. Got to get all your loving,” the audience caught on and gave a round of applause. The song lyrics, “shot through

the heart, you give love a bad name,” were used to depict a heartbreaking scene.

The audience was kept engaged by the comedic performances by Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett as Master Ford, Nythell “Nate” Collins as the host of the Garter Inn and James Mays Sr. as Sir John Falstaff.

Joey Mason showed bravado as he donned a dress and played a woman, Mistress Quickly. Referring to the life lesson he learned from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Mason said, “Courage is giving of yourself wholeheartedly, to be fearless in the process of healing and forgiveness.”

The play performed inside the prison’s Garden Chapel was outstanding, considering the actors had to pull off this Shakespearean feat without its characters touching or kissing their female counterparts. Moreover, the brawls were pulled off cleverly — not a blow landed.

Currier and Keating brought the spirit of the drama close to the audience by having the actors enter the stage via the chapel’s center aisle. In other scenes, the actors interacted directly with the audience — a ll of which made *The Merry Wives of Windsor* more engaging.

Even though the 17th century language was somewhat cumbersome, the actors projected themselves well, making up for the linguistic difficulties. Overall, the audience appreciated the comedic effort, as laughter constantly filled the air.

“When we can laugh at a part of ourselves that has previously caused us suffering, we are perhaps one step closer to healing that part,” the director’s notes read. “Regardless of whether or not you relate to any one specific character, we hope this show encourages you to laugh out loud — frequently — and reflect on where in your own life you may benefit from bring the gift of lightness.”

The finale used Michael Jackson’s “Man in the Mirror,” with Keating dancing in the aisles.

Afterward, the inmates were asked how acting together has affected their relationships. “What it has taught me is



Photo by Sam Hearnes

James Mays Sr. as John Falstaff tries to sneak out of Master Ford’s house disguised as a woman

that these people are like my family and I have to push through. Sometimes we have bad days. But we have to deal with it to get to the things important in our lives,” Rodney “RC” Capell said.

“We meet as a group,” Antwan Williams added. “There’s so much that we do that we have to lean on each other. We catch each other when we’re about to fall. It’s an amazing feeling.”

Padgett explained his process for getting into character this way: “It’s different every time; this time it was something that I felt as I rehearsed on the yard, in the cell, at work. It was a hiccup. And then it kept evolving. I felt it in my heart, and then the character takes on, and then I just become.”

“We chose this play because it allowed the men to take on vibrant characters,” Keating said. “We did a lot of work on what makes things funny. We worked on trust, especially for Eddie, this has been a stretch.”

“I want to thank everyone for being supportive. It was a challenge for me,” Eddie Rajapathis replied.

The female parts were played by Lynn, as Mistress Page, Rebecca as Mistress Page’s daughter and Marianne as Mistress Ford.

San Quentin Prison Report used three cameras to film the

play: Ruben Ramirez, front stationary, E. “Phil” Phillips, right stationary and Brian Asey, mobile hand-held.

The Marin Shakespeare Company used a single camera, center stage.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rodney “RC” Capell as Rugby and Carlos Meza as Dr. Caius prepares to leave for a dinner party



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joey Mason playing a woman mistress

Alliance for CHANGE Honors 16 Participants for Their Accomplishments

Continued from Page 1

they watched another group of San Quentin inmates walk to the podium, receive their certificates and share a personal comment about other class participants. For Dr. Lovaas, “It’s a labor of love.”

It was from these personal comments that the audience came to appreciate the hard work and personal development of these individuals. They undertook and completed a very challenging social justice curriculum taught by the Alliance for Change’s Education Department.

Their personal relationships were shared by short stories on



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Micheal Lain

how men of different ethnicities and backgrounds experienced something special in the class together. Charlie Spence, co-education leader, said, “Diversification is the platform of the Alliance for Change.”

“Our emphasis is to empower the participant to engage with others and his community. We believe a diverse background bonds relationships,” the co-leader said.

Another co-education leader spoke about one participant who was having difficulty with the study materials. He told the audience, “I am proud of them because they were the first group of guys who worked together outside of the

class. This attitude resonated throughout this class,” Chris Deragon said.

To show appreciation for their commitment, dedication and hard work, the Alliance for Change leadership selected four individuals for special awards. They were:

Special Award recipients – Sonny Nguyen and Jose Vieyra

High Honor Award recipient – Cedrick Walter

Accommodation High Excellent recipient – Michael Lane

In her closing remarks to the class, Richman told them to, “Go into the world and do well.”

–By Charles David Henry



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jose Vieyra

U.S. Department of Justice Reveals Decline In Domestic Violence From 1994-2011

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

There has been a sharp decline in violence between intimate partners, according to a federal analysis.

"From 1994 to 2011, the rate of serious intimate partner violence declined 72 percent for females and 64 percent for males," said the November 2013 report from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Statistics from a National Crime Victimization study were compiled on persons age 12 or older from a national sample of U.S. households.

According to the study, "Serious violence against fe-

males accounted for a similar percentage of intimate partner violence (35 percent) and non-intimate violence (34 percent)."

PHYSICAL ATTACK

In addition, an estimated two-thirds of female and male intimate partners' victimizations involved a physical attack between 2002 and 2011. The remaining third involved an attempted attack or verbal threat of harm.

During the 10-year period, eight percent of female intimate partner victimizations involved some form of sexual violence during the incident.

The study shows about four

percent of females and eight percent of males were "shot at, stabbed or hit with a weapon" between 2002 and 2011.

"During the most recent 10-year period (2002-11), aggravated assault accounted for the largest percentage of serious intimate partner violence experienced by females (16 percent), while rape or sexual assault (10 percent) and robbery (nine percent) contributed a similar percentage," the study said.

The study also found "Serious violent crime accounted for 39 percent of intimate partner violence committed against males. As for females, aggravated assault (22 per-

cent) accounted for the largest percentage of serious intimate partner violence against males. However, 16 percent of intimate violence against males was comprised of robbery, while rape or sexual assault accounted for the smallest percentage of intimate partner violence experienced by males (about 1 percent)."

STATISTICS

Statistics in the study confirm 27 percent of male's intimate partner victimization act of violence involved the use of a weapon compared to 18 percent for females.

In that same 10-year period, an object held in the hand of or thrown by an intimate partner accounted for five percent of female victimized and 19 percent of the males.

The study shows 50 percent of the females victimized by an intimate partner suffered some type of injury throughout this 10-year period, compared to 44 percent for males.

"From 2002 to 2011, a greater percentage of female (13 percent) than male (five percent) intimate partner victimizations resulted in a serious injury such as internal injury, unconsciousness or broken bones," the study revealed.

It was also reported, "An average of 18 percent of females and 11 percent of males were medically treated for injury sustained during intimate partner violent victimization during 2002-2011."

"Of the 3,032 homicide incidents involving females in 2010 39 percent were committed by an intimate, 37 percent were committed by a non-intimate and 24 percent by an unknown offender."

The majority of homicides recorded by the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report involved male victims. A larger percentage of females than males were murdered by an intimate partner when the offender relationship was known.

In 2010, a reported 10,878 homicides involved males. Statistics show three percent of those murders were committed by an intimate partner, 48 percent by a non-intimate.

Figures in the study show an unknown assailant committed 50 percent of those homicides.

A larger percentage of females were physically attacked when victimized by an intimate partner (67 percent) than by a non-intimate offender (40 percent).

Asked On The Line

Prisoners Respond to Officer Who Saved Inmate's Life

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of August has interesting celebrations. According to the World Almanac, August is Black Business Month, Happiness Happens Month, National Immunization Awareness Month and National Toddler Month.

These special designations call to mind the men and women who are true heroes in the community. They take care of business. In their pursuit of happiness, those who are parents make sure their toddlers are immunized. Then there are those who go beyond duty to do what is right.

Earlier this year a corrections officer saved an inmate's life on the lower yard. After approaching the inmate, who had collapsed, he called for medical assistance over his radio, as is likely the protocol. Thereafter, he made the courageous decision to check on the fallen man's pulse and found none. He could have waited for the medics to arrive; instead, he chose to administer CPR. He consequently saved the man's life.

Asked On the Line conducted random informal interviews with men on the mainline and asked, "How do you feel about the incident where the C.O. saved an inmate's life on the lower yard? How do you feel about the officer's actions? If that fallen man had been you, how would you feel?"

Many of the men thought that the officer should be commended for his courageous decision.

Kevin Valvardi said, "I was very glad to hear the news about that. I read about it, too. I hadn't heard of anything like that in over 17 years. The last time I heard something like that was in Calipatria sometime in 1997."

Raymond Bodine said, "I

think it's great. I would like to thank the officer. What he did was commendable."

Scott Balestrieri said, "I think that is wonderful. Something like that happened to me, too. Officer Jones saved me in the plaza area. That was highly professional, outstanding, and remarkable. Thank you Officer Jones."

Adriel Ortiz said, "I feel pretty good about it actually. At first, I didn't know him, but when I saw him working on the inmate, I was surprised. I was down there and saw the whole thing. As far as that officer, my attitude has changed. I have much more respect for him now."

"That kind of act of kindness in a place where there is so much hostility, coldness and stress"

Orlando Harris said, "He did his job, and he did it well. That is commendable. I think the fact that he was able to show some compassion and humanity, despite him being in green and an inmate in blue, he saved a human being."

Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla said, "I was there. I was at the equipment box ready to play baseball. I told the officer to 'look over there' where a guy collapsed and fell backward. Actually, I felt good about the situation. The officer walked over and called on his mic and called Med 1 and then he started CPR. He worked hard and vigorously to bring this guy back. It looked like he worked on the guy for like 20 minutes.

He didn't stop working on the man. He was pushing and pushing and the officer was drenched in sweat. I knew who the inmate was from a veteran's group. At first, I didn't think he was coming back, but the officer brought him back. It was a crazy afternoon."

Jesus Flores said, "I couldn't believe it, an officer was saving an inmates' life. I was too far away on the yard to see who went down, but I did see an officer trying to revive him. That officer is a hero."

Larry Gomez said, "I think it was a profound thing to see. That kind of act of kindness in a place where there is so much hostility, coldness and stress. I know the officers work a lot, and inmates are stressed out about being here and yet one man saved another man's life. We get caught up in our situation. There are greater things in life. People can become insensitive, but even in here, we can become sensitive people. That officer didn't have to save him, but he did."

Tommy Ross said, "Well, I witnessed it. I actually thought he was gone. The officer was persistent in pumping the man's chest until the medical team arrived. He's a by-the-book officer, and to see him revive a man with no hesitation made me see him in a whole new light. I remember that when we saw that the man was alive and was moving, we clapped for the officer. He didn't have to do it. If that inmate had been me, I would have been grateful. It was a good thing. No class distinction got in the way."

Jose Diaz said, "Para mi fue una buena obra. Salvo la vida de un ser humano. Yo lo miro a ese oficial como una Buena persona. Estoy agradecido por el." [For me it was a good work. I see the officer as a good person. I am grateful for him.]

San Quentin News

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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

1. Sacramento — California prison officials plan to build a mental health unit for condemned inmates at San Quentin State Prison. This is in response to a federal court order that mentally ill inmates on Death Row lack proper treatment, according to court documents, *The Associated Press* reports.

2. Sacramento — Arts programs will be boosted by \$2.5 million in 14 state prisons, the California Arts Council and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation told *The Associated Press*. Among the programs there will be several that help inmates express themselves through acting.

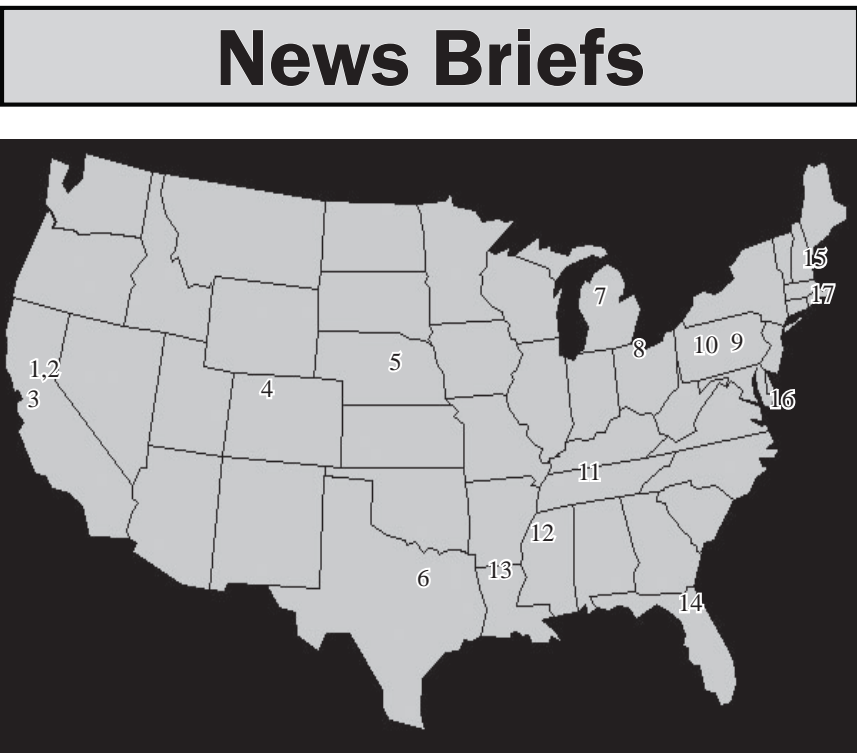
3. San Francisco — San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi says he will lower phone charges for detainees in the city’s jail. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that a 15-minute call within the county costs \$4.45 and a call elsewhere in California \$13.35.

4. Denver—Colorado will no longer place mentally ill inmates in solitary confinement, *The Associated Press* reports. A new law prohibits (with some exceptions) prison officials from placing inmates with serious mental illness in long-term solitary confinement.

5. Lincoln—Nebraska inmates are saving the state \$28,000 a year by growing their own produce, *The Associated Press* reports. They cultivate tomato, pepper, onion, radish, sweet corn and potato plants in their 20-acre vegetable garden. Corrections officials say they might expand the program to other state prisons.

6. Dallas — Johnnie Lindsey, 61, spent 26 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. He was exonerated in 2008. Lindsey was awarded \$2.2 million for his wrongful conviction, according to *The Dallas Morning News*.

7. Michigan — A report by The Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency revealed that 60 percent of 17-year-olds charged as adults had nonviolent offenses and 58 percent had no prior juvenile record. The report arrives in the midst of a public debate about how much the



state spends on corrections and whether the state’s get-tough approach to juvenile crime is working, reports *The Detroit News*.

8. Ohio —The number of identified gang-involved inmates in Ohio is declining. As of January, 8,171 inmates were identified as members of a prison gang or “security threat group,” according to a Correctional Institution Inspection Committee report. This is down about 13 percent since 2012. Prison officials attributed this drop-off to “more stringent profiling criteria and diligence of staff at all levels,” Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokesman Scott Flowers told *The News Messenger*.

Erie, Pa. —It will cost the Pennsylvania department of Corrections \$250,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the daughter of an inmate killed by his cellmate in 2012, according to *The Erie Times-News*. Carla Davis-Vining said corrections officials made a grievous error by placing the cellmate with paranoid schizophrenia in the same cell with her father.

9. Harrisburg, Pa. —The state

has instituted a hiring freeze at Pennsylvania’s prisons to save money, and the corrections officers’ union said that such a step increases the safety risks for a skeleton prison workforce if it drags on for much longer. The hiring freeze is solely to save money, and it is the first step in dealing with tight finances resulting from the state’s growing budget shortfall, *The Associated Press* reports.

10. Chattanooga, Tenn. — A new Tennessee law helps jobs applicants with a criminal past to gain employment. The Tennessee Negligent Hiring and Retention law allows employers to hire an ex-offender who has received a “certificate of employability” after paying his or her debt to society. In return, employers would be protected from liability suits if the ex-offender with a violent past assaults a fellow co-worker.

11. Montgomery, Ala. — Two advocacy groups have filed a lawsuit against the Alabama prison system, claiming the state is failing to provide basic medical and mental health care to inmates. The lawsuit alleges

that medical and mental health conditions have gone untreated. One inmate had a foot amputated because of untreated gangrene and another died from prostate cancer despite tests identifying rising cancer-marker levels, according to the lawsuit.

12. Louisiana — Gov. Bobby Jindal is reportedly considering a veto of legislation to reduce the state’s nation-leading incarceration rate. Some say it goes the furthest of any bill passed by the Louisiana Legislature during its recent session. The legislation reduces the minimum amount of time violent offenders must serve — from 85 to 75 percent of their sentence — before becoming parole eligible. The legislation also requires only a majority vote from the parole board, rather than a unanimous one, reports *nola.com*.

13. Tallahassee, Fla. — Florida state officials have agreed to sell off four closed prisons as part of a series of land deals that will bring in more than \$27 million to the state’s environmental land-buying program. Gov. Rick Scott and three members of the state Cabinet unanimously ap-

proved the sale of more than 1,500 acres spread throughout Central and South Florida. The four prisons were shuttered during a round of prison consolidations and budget cuts that happened shortly after Scott came into office, *The Associated Press* reports.

14. Boston — The highest court in Massachusetts has ruled that lifetime community parole supervision for sex offenders is unconstitutional, finding that only judges can impose additional jail time on offenders who have completed their original sentence. Currently, the state Parole Board can sentence sex offenders to additional terms of incarceration if they violate the terms of what is called community parole supervision for life. The Supreme Judicial Court said that the current law violates the state Constitution, *The Associated Press* reports.

15. Washington, D.C. — In an effort to provide employment, training and support services to successfully re-integrate formerly incarcerated adults and youth involved in the juvenile justice system into their communities, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of \$74 million in grants to 37 community service organizations. Grantees are expected to provide a range of services that includes case management, mentoring, education and training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, a U.S. Department of Labor press release states.

16. New York — Settlement for five men wrongly convicted in the Central Park jogger case is “prudent” 25 years later. The five settled for a reported \$40 million. The city’s comptroller signed off on a settlement with the so-called Central Park Five, who were wrongly jailed for a sensational 1989 crime that led to what critics called a racially charged rush to judgment. All five of the men, who were teenagers when they were arrested, were exonerated in the rape and assault of a woman. They all served lengthy prison terms after being convicted in jury trials of charges ranging from sexual abuse to attempted murder, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

New Japanese Prison Is a Model for U.S. Institutions

‘It helps inmates take responsibility for their actions and encourages giving back to society’

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Japan has opened a new model prison designed to enhance rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

The Shimane Asahi prison is an important case study for the United States because it represents an additional and less frequently considered path, according to researcher Paul Leighton.

This creation is an experimental space for a new model of incarceration, Leighton wrote in the Justice Policy Journal. He is a professor in

the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology at Eastern Michigan University.

Leighton visited the new prison called the Shimane Asahi Rehabilitation Center in Japan.

EXPERIMENT

His report provides a background on the prison and Japan’s experiment with privatizing “social infrastructure.”

The United States was once a destination country for anyone interested in penal innovation, Leighton said. Now it is a country with the largest

per capita incarcerated population, he added.

The philosophy behind Shimane Asahi is based on three pillars. The first is public-private cooperation. This is expected to bring cost savings and innovation. The second is preventing recidivism with various educational, vocational and rehabilitative activities. For example, it has a program to train guide dogs for the blind. The third is a facility that is “co-built” with the local community and places a great importance on “building together” with the local region.

The report says the three pil-

lars create a therapeutic community that connects people and teaches “humanity.” It helps inmates take responsibility for their actions and encourages giving back to society, while making them aware of values and patterns that lead to crime and foster change.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

The facility uses new technology for tracking, scanners and automated food delivery. It also uses “sniffer” or “puffer” machines like those airports use to detect explosives but modified to search

for drugs. A full-body scanner allows staff to screen for contraband without touching the inmates and avoids strip searches or invasive body cavity searches.

They also tag inmates clothing so a “location info system” reveals where an inmate is at all times. It’s intended to eliminate the need for guards to escort prisoners.

Leighton concludes the Japanese facility should not be blindly copied, but it should bring attention to problems with warehouse prisons and should inspire American plans for the future.

East All-Stars Power Past West, 108-107

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

This wasn't your typical All-Star event where everyone takes it easy; both teams in the Intramural Basketball All-Star game were out to win. The East closed out the contest, 108-107, after the West's Harry "ATL" Smith sank a three-pointer a moment too late.

"I wanted to win," said Michael Franklin of the West.

"The game could have gone either way," said East coach Orlando Harris.

"We the best of the best out here," said Oris "Pep" Williams.

The East team included Maurice Hanks, Williams, Alias Jones, DuPriest Brown, Allan McIntosh, Antonio

SPORTS

"Boobie" Cavitt, Jay Brown, Jamal Green, Brian Asey, Lomack, Aubra-Lamont McNelly and Darryl Ferris.

The West consisted of H. Smith, Marcus Cosby, Franklin, Donte Smith, Junior Roberts, Michael Tercero, Charles Sylvester, Terrell Sterling, Erick Nelson, Ed Quinn and Kenneth Dozier. Aaron Taylor coached the West.

The game went back and fourth in the fourth quarter with missed free throws and fouls costing each team. H. Smith tied the game at 97 all by making one from the line. Hanks was fouled going the other way, but missed both

free throws. His teammate Jones got the rebound and gave Hanks the ball, but Nelson fouled Hanks, who missed both free throws again.

Hanks made up for going 0-4 in a row from the line by hitting a three-pointer, putting his team up 100-97.

Dozier tried to tie the score with a three that was off the mark, but Franklin rebounded the ball and put it in -100-99. Cavitt and Reese scored for the East with back-to-back baskets, increasing to 104-99.

Then H. Smith responded with a strong move to the rack, making the score 104-

101. A few plays later, Cavitt was bringing the ball down court when Franklin mugged him in the backcourt. Franklin dribbled to the hole and went up for a layup when Cavitt pulled him down to stop the easy basket. The refs called it a flagrant two foul and gave the East two free throws and the ball. Franklin hit both.

H. Smith was fouled going to the rack. He made the basket, but it didn't count. Smith tied the score from the line, but failed to take the lead - 105-105.

H. Smith fouled McIntosh, who only hit one free throw with 13 seconds left.

With five seconds left, H. Smith drew the defense, then kicked the ball out to Cosby at the free throw line, who hit the short jumper - West 107-106.

With two seconds left, the East went to sharpshooter Williams, who was celebrating his 53rd birthday that July 5. Williams went up for the three, but was fouled by Nelson.

"If he didn't foul me that was going in; all bottoms," said Williams post game.

Williams made two of three

free throws, putting the East up 108-107.

"We did good. We made a foul that wasn't supposed to be made. It sent Pep to the line, and he's Mr. Clutch - he made the free-throws for his team," said Franklin.

The West got the rebound and called time out with two seconds left. The ball was in-bounded to H. Smith, who dribbled the ball twice, went up and hit the three-pointer that would have won the game if it were in time.

Hanks led his team as MVP with 30 points, 12 boards, two assists and a block. Williams had 23 with 12 rebounds, an assist and a steal. McIntosh added 19 with six boards, three assists and two steals.

For the West, the first half was the Mike and Mike show. Franklin led all scorers with 35 points, 17 rebounds, an assist and two steals. He was Co-MVP with Hanks. Tercero posted 10 points, eight rebounds, an assist and two steals, but he fouled out early in the fourth quarter. H. Smith added 11 with 12 boards, seven assists and a steal.

"I really wasn't expecting to make the All-Star team, but I really did," said Tercero.

Gold Medalist Eddie Hart Returns to San Quentin

By **Harun Taylor**
Sports Writer

"We have a responsibility to give back in any way that we can," 1972 Olympian Eddie Hart told a group of San Quentin runners. He also gave running tips and shared his experience during his return visit to The Q.

"No matter the situation, you can overcome it. Moreover, to help others with that experience, you should want to help," Hart added.

Hart started the All-in-One Foundation 11 years ago. It focuses on neighborhood kids and at-risk youth, teaching them job skills and training, as well as taking them on field trips.

Hart fielded numerous questions from the group, covering subjects from running techniques to performance-enhancing drugs, to suggestions on how to return to your community and start nonprofit groups like his All-in-One Foundation.

Christopher Markham, San Quentin All-Madden Flag Football team assistant coach, asked Hart to share insights on creating youth athletic groups.

"You want to connect with an organization and even think about starting a nonprofit because it's going to be about the dollars. You want to look at doing fund-raisers, seeking grants, as well as donations."

Hart added, "I like your question because you have - not just a duty - an obligation. You have an experience that you can share. That experience is important and valuable to children, especially where we come from."

Thousand Mile coach Kevin Rumon added, "You should surround yourself with people that can help with skill sets when it comes to fundraising and donations. Get good, quality help."

As for his foundation's success, Hart smiled and said, "Eighty-seven percent of my athletes have gone from a two-year to a four-year school. All



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Eddie Hart

my kids get an offer of either financial assistance to a full ride. There is nothing more rewarding than helping kids - nothing," he said.

"No matter the situation, you can overcome it. Moreover, to help others with that experience, you should want to help"

Hart earned a physical education degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He also studied kinesiology, biomechanics and exercise physiology.

Hart demonstrated physical movements relating to sprinting versus long distance running and advised the 1000 Miler Club members on long-term health issues.

"The human body was made to move in a certain way," said Hart, speaking on the technique of running. "It's locomotion. To move forward, you have to have force moving in the opposite direction."

"Heel first is wrong when it comes to running. The ankle is designed as a shock absorber. In long distance running, you want to land toe first, a little more on the ball of the foot, yet leaning forward," Hart demonstrated for the group at the July 11 event.

Regarding performance-enhancing drugs, Hart stated, "Drugs were never really an issue in the '70s; technique was the prime focus. Aminos aren't like performance-enhancing drugs. Aminos are protein. Egg whites are the best protein. Second to egg whites is non-fat milk."

As for the state of track and field in America, Hart said, "Track and field is not that big of a deal in the United States. Even golf beats out track and field in the U.S.," he added.

"When I was 13, I wanted to be an Olympian. To do that, I had to have good grades. So, to follow my dream also helped me focus on getting a good education. I went to Cal Berkeley due to having good grades."

In the 1972 Berlin Olympics, Hart made international news when he missed his qualifying race for the 110-meter race, something that he began training for at age 13.

A mix-up in the scheduling cost him his opportunity to represent the U.S. in that race; however, Hart didn't have time to grieve. He won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay race.

"Missing that race was the number one news story in the world. It was also the biggest struggle and obstacle I had faced in my life. It was the most pain I had ever dealt with. It felt like a parent losing a child that they had raised for 10 years," Hart stated. "As a result, I grew from that experience. I learned to deal with adversity."

Hardtimers Defeat Christian Sports Ministry, 12-7

Christian Sports Ministry softball team lost 12-7 to the San Quentin Hardtimers, but its religious message was a winner.

"It is a treat for us to be able to fellowship in this way," said Rigo Lopez, who gave an inspirational post-game talk and led both teams and the umpires in prayer. He used scent to make his point, "Sniff the guy next to you, and tell him he stinks. I stank up third base with all those errors. Does your aroma match your walk with Christ?"

Lopez kept his team in the game, hitting doubles in the first and fourth inning and a two-run homer that landed on the ARC building's roof and tied the score at 7-7 in the sixth.

The Hardtimers took off in the seventh, but CSM didn't bring in any more runs. Hardtimer pitcher Isiah Daniels hit a single, and then stole second on an error. Ke Lam hit a pop fly that was snagged in the outfield, but it allowed Daniels to take third.

Daniels' teammates told him to slide, even though he didn't need to.

"My teammates were yelling 'slide'. I fell. I looked like a throw pillow coming in there," joked Daniels.

Juan Sandoval walked, putting men on first and third. John Windham blasted a double into the outfield that gave the Hardtimers the lead at 8-7. An over-throw allowed Windham and Sandoval to take home, making the score 10-7. The inning ended without any more runs

scored.

"I ran out of my shoe going for home," remarked Windham.

In the eighth, Hardtimer Michael "Hawkeye" Fleming got on first on a bobbled catch error. Antonio Cavitt advanced him with a single. Cory Woods loaded the bases when he hit a single into the gap.

Daniels hit a long fly that was caught but allowed Fleming to come in, increasing the lead to 11-7. Eric Post hit a one RBI single that gave the Hardtimers the final score of 12-7.

Win or lose, "either way we are having fun," said Lopez.

The game had a scary moment in the fifth inning. CSM sponsor Don Smith, who was playing catcher, was hit in the head with the ball when he stretched to catch a throw from third to tag out a runner.

"I tried to bring the ball down to make the tag before it was fully in my glove. We could have won the game if we had a better catcher," joked Smith.

"He's the most humble man I know," said Lopez.

"The world needs more people like Don," said S.Q. Warriors coach Daniel Wright, who watched the game.

The star of the game was Daniels. "He struck out six people, three while they were looking. That never happens in slow pitch," said Hardtimers coach Bob about the June 22 game.

-By Rahsaan Thomas

Kirk Lacob Aids Visitors in Two Basketball Wins

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Pro basketball executive Kirk Lacob showed his skills on the San Quentin court, helping Christian Ministry to victories over the S.Q. Warriors and Kings. The Green Team defeated the Warriors, 86-82, and the Kings, 63-56.

Lacob is Golden State's assistant general manager and son of the team's owner. He returned to San Quentin to play in a Christian Sports Ministries double-header June 21.

It was Lacob's first time in with the Green Team this year. "It's good to be back," said Lacob, who loves playing basketball in San Quentin. Last year he came the day before Father's Day with his brothers and their father, Joe Lacob. They won the game for their dad.

"Ben Draa brought me in, and I've kept coming back. It's fun playing basketball with family and guys who love basketball. I can't think of anything better to do," said Lacob.

In the Kings game, the Green Team overcame a 16-9 deficit in the first quarter to take the lead in the second and never looked back.

Ross Pusey's hot shooting and Lacob's gritty play led them to victory. Pusey got hot from three-point land, making six of eight. He finished with 24 points, six steals, four rebounds and two assists. Pusey played for San Jose City College under Speed City coach Percy Carr.

Lacob played tough, getting up from the ground seven times in both games. "I dived on some of those. Yo, it hurt; the ground is hard," joked Lacob. He was his team's second leading scorer with 14 points, four steals, three assists and one rebound.



Photo by Rapheale Casales

Kirk Lacob going up for a rebound, Harry Smith trying to take it

"That's just a regular prison foul. Clotheslines are legal in prison," joked S.Q. play-by-play announcer Aaron Taylor as Lacob was fouled going for a layup.

"It was my coaching strategy that won the game; don't put me in," clowned Green Team coach/player Draa, who limited his own minutes. They beat the Kings without the Claremont-McKenna Connection: Chris Blees, an All-American in his college days; Patrick Lacey; and Matt Richardson. They only played in the Warriors game.

In the game against the S.Q. Warriors, the Green Team came back from being down 51-31 at the half that ended with a buzzer-beater from three-point land hit by Warrior Harry "ATL" Smith. The Warriors came out with great energy and got off to an early jump. The 5-foot-11 S.Q. Warrior DuPriest Brown ignited the crowd and his team

by grabbing a rebound from above the rim then jamming it down.

"He posterized 'Low Post' Lacey," said Taylor.

Then the Green Team changed its defensive scheme. "Pack in



Photo by Rapheale Casales

Ross Pusey, Ben Ilegbodou and Lacob in huddle

the zone. They have no shooters," said Pusey in a huddle.

Blees led the Green Team's comeback. He finished with 30 points and 10 rebounds, an assist and two steals. Lacob added

seven points.

However, it was Richardson who stole the game from the Warriors. With the Green Team up 83-82 on a reverse layup hit by Ben Ilegbodou, the Warriors were inbounding the ball when Richardson stole it with 1:31 left on the clock.

With the score stuck on 83-82, the Green Team with the ball and 24 seconds left, the Warriors intentionally fouled Ilegbodou. He missed both free throws.

Brown missed a layup at the rim with seven seconds left, and Blees snatched the rebound. Blees was fouled intentionally to stop the clock and hit one of two attempts, making the score 84-82.

Warrior Allan McIntosh made a lazy inbound pass that Richardson stole and immediately passed to Antoine "Mad Max" Maddox, who slam-dunked the ball. That torpedoed the Warriors' chances of coming back. Richardson finished with 11 points, three rebounds, five

assists and five steals. Maddox added 15 points, five rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block.

"I look at the eyes. Then I give them enough space to think they have something. Then I pounce," said Richardson about his ability to make timely steals.

"We lost the game on turnovers and no defense. We're going to have to learn to play defense both halves," said Warriors coach Daniel Wright.

"It was a coaching victory. I let them coach themselves the first half. Second half, I coached," joked Epling.

Despite losing, three Warriors had double-doubles. Smith scored 26 with 13 boards, McIntosh added 17 and 10 and Ammons had 13 and 10.

A couple of San Quentin residents heckled Lacob during his return to San Quentin about firing Mark Jackson.

"You messed up and fired Mark Jackson. Now all Golden State fans across the world are going to be sad because of you," heckled inmate Ceasar "C-Money" McDowell, who is a huge S.Q. Warriors fan.

Kirk Lacob handled the comment well. "You guys told me to fire him," he joked, referring to when Lacob brought Jackson into San Quentin, among others, to play basketball and give encouraging words. The S.Q. Warriors fans teased Jackson then. The G.S. Warriors organization defeated the S.Q. Warriors 134-119 in the Sept. 20 game.

Pusey gave his testimony during halftime in both games. He spoke of growing up poor and finally giving God a chance.

"I'd rather play here than get wins for some coach. This is the game that matters — sowing seeds for God's kingdom and showing brotherly love," said Pusey after the game.

Visiting Suns Top S.Q. Giants, Lose to A's

The visiting Suns baseball team drove from Santa Monica to play a double-header against San Quentin's Giants and A's. They defeated the Giants, 4-3, and lost to the A's, 9-7.

"We are big fans of the program. This is my seventh year coming up," said Bob Sharka, coach and organizer of the Suns.

"He is the biggest supporter in the history of the program," said San Quentin baseball sponsor Elliot Smith.

"Bob is awesome. He always donates a bunch of equipment to us," said John "Yah-ya" Parratt. The Suns outthit the A's, 10-9, but the A's scored more runs using small ball — stealing bases and advancing runners with bunts.

"Their fundamentals are very good," said Suns second baseman Sanjay Nagarkar. He hit two doubles but was stranded both times.

"We're leaving a lot of men on base," said Vin Disanti, the Suns' right fielder.

The Suns chased the A's for most of the game. In the bottom of the fifth, the A's led 4-1 and improved to 6-1 when Ruben Harper hit a grounder to mid-field that Nagarkar snagged, but fell when he tried to throw. That

allowed Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to take home and Cleo Cloman to advance. Cloman stole home on the next play.

Anthony Denard followed with a double, then stole third; however, the inning ended when John Windham struck out.

After Thompson-Bonilla pitched five innings without his broken glasses, Cloman replaced him on the mound.

"His glasses snapped in warm-up. He pitched without them," said A's Coach Kevin O'Connell.

The Suns came back in the top of the seventh. With the bases loaded, Sun Will "Bubba" Brown banged a grand slam over the razor-wire fence that gave his team a 7-6 lead.

Then Brown replaced his brother Andy at the mound and things went all bad. "We took the lead, then I came in to pitch and gave up three runs," admitted Brown.

Denard put the A's back on top with a double that brought in Harper, Bilal Coleman and Robert Townes, making the score 9-7. The Suns failed to score in the last inning, giving Thompson-Bonilla the win and Cloman the save.

"It felt good to actually help my team in that situation be-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

A's Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla at bat against the Suns

cause all the other times I didn't come through for them," said Denard.

The second game came down to pitching and involved a controversial call at the plate. Each pitcher only gave up three hits. "It was a straight-out pitcher's duel," said Giants first baseman Michael Panella.

In the seventh inning, Giants catcher Mike Tyler tried to keep Sun Dan Greenberg from advancing by throwing toward second, but the ball ended up in the outfield. Greenberg stole second, rounded third and head-

ed for home. Tyler made the catch, blocked home plate and made the tag. Greenberg was called out. However, the umpires huddled and decided he was safe because it's illegal to block home plate. The run was counted, giving the Suns a 4-2 lead.

"It was a fouled-up call," said inmate Trevor Bird.

The Suns were short two players for the second game, so they picked up S.Q. Giants sponsor/coach Mike Deeble and Greenberg from the Oaks squad.

"It's awesome playing against

my team. I hope they lose, because I want to win. I'm a competitor. The better the competition, the better they will get," said Deeble.

Giant Jeff "Dewey" Dumont held the Suns scoreless until the fifth inning, when his arm got away from him. He walked two Suns in a row, then hit one with a pitch, loading the bases. Then he hit Deeble with a pitch, pushing in a run. Ray Mars knocked the ball to the infield for a fielder's choice throw out at second, but allowed a run to come in, giving the Suns a 3-1 lead. Dumont got out of the inning when Sun Zach Mann grounded to third and was thrown out at first.

The Giants coaches left Dumont on the mound, and he settled down. He went on to strike out six batters. The Suns scored their fourth run on an error and the disputed home-plate call.

The Giants mounted a comeback try in the top of the eighth. It started with a single by Dumont, who stole second. Then Panella belted a 4-3 ground out to advance Dumont to third. Another hit by Tyler brought in Dumont, making the score 4-3. No other Giants scored, leaving the Suns on top of the June 21 game.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

COUPLES WED IN SAN QUENTIN

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Flag Day brought happiness to seven couples in San Quentin State Prison, including one bride who traveled more than 6,000 miles to take her wedding vows.

"After a long search, I found my soulmate," said Sylvie Jackson, who flew from Germany to marry Bailey Jackson, 43. Jackson has been on San Quentin's Death Row since 2005. "I feel like I just got released from Death Row," he said. "I feel free."

A correctional officer, Sgt. Lewis, performed the seven weddings. Warden's Executive Assistant Christine Remillard assisted Sgt. Lewis. "A lot of people wanted to get married today," said Remillard. "If we did them all, it would have taken too long. So, we had to schedule the rest of them for August."

San Quentin's visiting room also serves as the wedding chapel for inmates and their brides. Inmate John Vernacchio said he's taken pictures at more than three dozen weddings in the year and a half that he's been the visiting room cameraman.

"On days when there are



Christopher Bell Jr. and Teonna Bell

weddings, I'm really busy because I also have to take pictures for the regular visitors, too," Vernacchio said. After taking the

wedding photos, he and the couple look at the pictures through the camera's viewfinder, and the new wife picks out the ones she likes.

As part of their vows, Sgt. Lewis invited Troy and Alfiya Williams to proclaim, "This ring I give unto to you as a token of my love," while their friends and family witnessed their joining. "This is such a beautiful day. I'm happy for Troy and Alfiya," said best man, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll.

Aaron Brock and Pauline Barbour pledged their love with an understanding that "it is not only marrying the right partner, it is marrying and *being* the right partner," according to the vows read by Sgt. Lewis.

Patrick Wright and Clarinda Sanders took their vows as about a half dozen friends and family stood by.

When Andrew Bernard Moss and Marisa Belleci were wed, as part of their marriage

vows they placed a ring on their mate's finger, saying, "This ring being a complete and unbroken circle."

"Marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime special and unique opportunity to share your love and life with the most special person you'll ever meet during your time on this planet," Moss said. "We are blessed to share ours with one another."

Michael and Jacqueline

Hampton took their vows, acknowledging that marriage "is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor." As part of his pledge, Michael Hampton said, "You're the best thing that's happened in my life."

"Marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime special and unique opportunity to share your love and life with the most special person you'll ever meet during your time on this planet,"

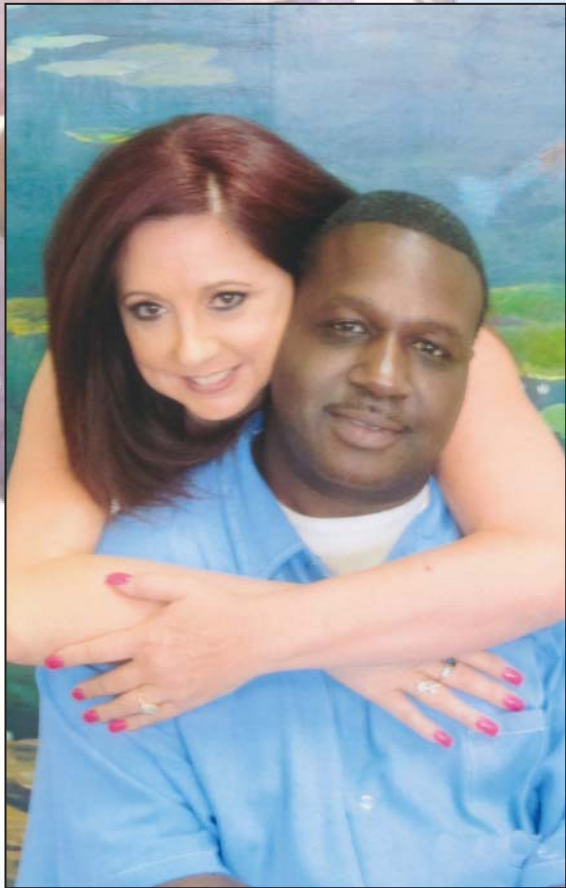
The largest wedding was the last one. More than a dozen witnesses came to see Christopher Bell Jr. and Teonna Brown tie the knot. Jozieh Bell, 5, was the ring bearer.

"The wedding was just a formality," said Teonna. "We've always been one."

Christopher Bell added, "She's my soulmate. I couldn't think of a better way to express that. She was designed by God for me."



Michael and Jacqueline Hampton



Andrew Bernard Moss and Marisa Moss

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Death Row prisoner being uncuffed by a correctional officer before entering the recreational yard

Push to Speed Up State Executions Fails to Make Ballot

By N.T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

A ballot measure meant to speed up the review process for prisoners sentenced to death did not qualify for the November election, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The proposed initiative would have limited appeals by death row inmates, eased the qualifying standards for death penalty defense lawyers and done away with public hearings on lethal injection procedures.

See *Ballot* on Page 5

San Quentin Celebrates Annual Day of Peace



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

John "John-John" Hoskings, Cody Brown, Jeremy Harvell, Az Ford, Cory Mathews, Travis Westly

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Eight years ago, a race riot on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison prompted a multiracial group of men, most serving life sentences, to form the Day

of Peace committee.

The men said the Day of Peace was established to show inmates that there are ways to reject violence and support peace.

"Open dialogue, violence

See *Annual* on Page 20

TRUST Holds Its 11th Annual Health Fair Event

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild
Chairman

San Quentin's annual Health Fair has entered its second decade with the completion of the 11th event, held in August. The popular event is sponsored by TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training)

"It's one of the most anticipated events in the prison for the entire population," said Kelly Mitchell, Chief Deputy Warden.

The Health Fair is in a perpetual state of development and planning to make each year better than the previous year.

"It's always exciting to come here," said Dr. Arnold Perkins. "I think it's important for the men on the inside to have contact with the community outside."



Photo by Sam Heames

Dental assistant Laura Birchett educates prisoners about dental care

Some see the Health Fair as a one-day event to promote good health, but its preparation is a yearlong process. The support

of the warden's office, staff, outside volunteers and inmates

See *Health Fair* on Page 10

Federal Judge Rules California's Death Penalty Unconstitutional

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

California's death penalty is unconstitutional because of extraordinary delays and its uncertainty, a federal judge has ruled.

"Typically, the lapse of time between sentence and execution is 25 years, twice the national average, and is growing wider each year," said U.S. District Court Judge Cormac J. Carney, as reported by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

California voters adopted the current death penalty system in 1978. Since then, more than 900

See *California's* on Page 4



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Adjustment Center, Yard 2

California Supreme Court Rules Multiple Strikes on One Act Unconstitutional

California's Supreme Court ruled a portion of the Three Strikes Law unconstitutional. It ruled that there are limits on awarding multiple strikes arising out of a single criminal act.

The facts of the case are as follows:

Darlene Vargas and Oscar Velasquez committed a home invasion robbery against Lynn Burrows and William Alves. Later that night, Vargas and Velasquez were caught prowling

near another home in the same neighborhood. A witness later identified Velasquez and Vargas as the man and woman who were walking near the victims' home. They were in possession of burglary tools and items taken from the Burrows/Alves home.

Vargas was charged and convicted of burglary, grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft.

At sentencing, the court ruled that a 1999 carjacking and rob-

bery counted as two strikes against her, even though they happened during a single criminal act.

The court on July 10 ruled that when the Three Strikes Law passed in 1994, voters understood that a person would have three chances before the harshest penalty could be imposed and that no one can receive two strikes on one act.

See *California* on Page 14

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Jennifer Armstrong, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, Deborah Brown, PL Brown, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula, Sua Shu-Kwan Chan, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Marshall Cook, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, Simone Gabrielle Crowe, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Daniel Elber, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, George Estrada, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheila Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman*, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiestler, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngard, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Seema Kacker, Kaitlin Kall, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Anthony Kenrick*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klopp, Dwane Kratchovil, Elise Kroeber, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Monica Lee-Griffith, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Tracy McIntosh, Andrew MacKay, David McConnell, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Wistar McLaren, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Phyllis Mileo, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, J.S. Perrella*, Paul Peterzell, John Porter, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Stephen Reitz, Galen Van Rensselaer, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarosone, J.B. Scherrer, Lucia Scott, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Uffell-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Peter Wagner, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Carla White, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Sharran Zeleke, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Graduate School of Journalism

BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

A Spiritual Leader's Message of Change

'Don't be a priest for the church a priest for God'



Family Photo

Sita Lozoff and her husband, Bo Lozoff

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Renowned spiritual leader Sita Lozoff told a San Quentin audience that people can change their lives and be free, no matter where they are.

Sita visited San Quentin 10 years ago with her husband, the late Bo Lozoff. Many men in attendance remembered meeting them. She returned July 31, when the Catholic Chapel was alive with chanting, meditation and spiritual harmony as Lozoff inspired the men to change their lives.

Bo Lozoff's book entitled, *We're All Doing Time*, published in 1985, is often referred to as the prisoner's bible.

Bo Lozoff died in 2012. However, Sita said she has been carrying on the work of their organization, Human Kindness Foundation. Sita has been having what she calls "conversations" with inmates since Bo's passing. Sita said that she felt Bo was speaking to the men through her.

Catholic Chaplain Father George Williams introduced Sita. Williams first met Bo and Sita many years ago in Boston. Williams said he was studying for the priesthood at a time when the church was going through trials and tribulations of its own. He said that he had begun to question whether the priesthood was really his path.

Bo was able to cut through the meaningless and get to the only thing that mattered, said Williams.

"Don't be a priest for the church," Lozoff said, "be a priest for God."

In the chapel, Sita described the spiritual journey that she and her husband traveled.

In the heyday of the hippie movement, Sita and Bo were in the middle of LSD experimentation, protests and social movements. She said she remembers when she and Bo

were "sitting in the middle of hundreds of black people, and we were the only white people in the crowd."

Sita commented that it was "a little unsettling when the speakers started preaching to 'Kill whities.'"

The chapel crowd laughed when she said, "I was a little concerned."

After she and Bo were married in 1966, Bo founded the Prison-Ashram Project. They began going to prisons and auditoriums and engaging in conversations about inner peace. They wrote letters of advice, compassion and instruction to hundreds of inmates around the United States.

Juan Haines, managing editor of the *San Quentin News*, said when he was in Soledad State Prison he heard Bo interviewed on KPFA. "His explanation of spirituality and inner peace made sense," Haines said.

At the close of the radio interview, Bo offered to send the book to any inmate who was listening. Haines wrote to him in North Carolina and received the book two weeks later.

"It was plainly written, easy to understand and it wasn't religious," Haines said. The book incorporates elements of all the great world religions and ties them together.

As the title indicates, Lo-

zoff's message is that we are all imprisoned—whether physically in prison or not—by unhappiness, mortality and limitations on our love and understanding. It is like a guidebook on how to live life, according to Haines, on how to meet challenges and understand adversity.

"I've read that book one time and still here it is 30 years later, it still resonates with me the same way," Haines said.

The prison project founded by Lozoff has become the Human Kindness Foundation. It's a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to encourage more kindness in the world. The project encourages inmates to use prison time to focus and develop their spiritual growth.

Although Bo wrote several books, more than 400,000 copies of *We're All Doing Time* have been printed, and many present and former inmates revere it. The book has been hailed around the world for its street-wise presentation of spiritual truths from all traditions.

The *Village Voice* reported "*We're All Doing Time* is one of the 10 books everyone in the world should read..."


We're All Doing Time is scheduled to be reviewed in an upcoming issue of *San Quentin News*.

Bo Lozoff

1947—2012

"My footsteps quickly disappear into the sand forever. Ah, but that's okay, 'cause where I've been don't matter anyway. If you're looking for me I can still be found through my tracks lead so far out of sight. I'm stumbling toward the light."

—from Bo's first album, *Stumbling Toward The Light*



Heart Disease, Suicide Leading Causes of Jail Deaths in 2011

Males Accounted for Nearly 9 in 10 Deaths in Local Jails

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Heart disease and suicide continue to be the two leading causes of death in local jails, accounting for 61 per-

cent of all jail deaths in 2011, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Over the 12-year-period 2000-2011, suicide accounted for between 34 and 48 deaths per 100,000 inmates, the bu-

reau reported. Males accounted for nearly nine in 10 deaths in local jails. Whites accounted for more than 59 percent of local deaths in the year 2011. Also in 2011, jail residents 55 and older died

at a rate that was three times the rate for younger inmates (650 per 100,000). Also in 2011, more than a third (39 percent) of deaths occurred within the first week of admission to a jail facility.

About half of suicides (48 percent) and a third (32 percent) of heart disease deaths occurred during the first week of admission. Between 2000 and 2011, male jail inmates were 1.6 times more likely to commit suicide than were female inmates. From 2000 to 2010, the suicide rate for white inmates was three times higher than the rate of other races.

Cancer and heart disease were the two leading causes of death in state prisons in 2011, accounting for 56 percent of deaths. The mortality rate for heart disease was 65 deaths per 100,000 prisoners during 2000-2011.

In state prisons, the illness-related mortality rate increased 4 percent from 2010 to 2011. Cancer was the most common cause of death in 2011, followed by heart disease, liver disease, respiratory disease and AIDS-related deaths.

In 2011, male prisoners accounted for more than 96 percent of prison deaths. White prisoners accounted for half of prison deaths between 2001 and 2010, black inmates accounted about one-third of prison deaths between 2001 and 2011. In 2011, male mortality rate was 1.6 times higher than female rates.

Between 2001 and 2011, black state prisoners committed suicide at one-third of the rate of white state prisoners.

Prisoners 55 and older died at rates five times higher than for any other age group for cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease.

Between 2002 and 2010, the cancer mortality rate increased 22 percent for males and 79 percent for females. The cancer rate for whites increased 33 percent and blacks increased 24 percent during this same period. (BJS website is www.bjs.gov.)

Report: Contra Costa County Called Model Jail

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Contra Costa County jails operate as a model for other counties that continue to struggle with the consequences and reality of prison realignment, a nonprofit research report concludes.

"While many counties have struggled to manage the new influx of inmate population, Contra Costa County appears to be exceeding expectations with the newfound responsibility," the JFA Institute reported.

KEY JUSTICE

The study said Contra Costa's success can be attributed to practices such as cooperation between the "key justice agencies," including the sheriff, district attorney, public defender, courts and probation department.

According to JFA Institute's study, early meetings between these agencies reached a consensus to maximize "split sentencing."

The study describes split sentences as a provision under Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) for "non-violent, non-serious, non-sex felonies," whereby courts impose jail as punishment and supervision by probation departments. "Split sentencing permits, in addition to jail time, additional correctional

measures." "This historic culture within the Contra Costa County criminal justice community was already producing extremely low rates of correctional populations prior to the implementation of AB 109," JFA Institute reported. "... If other counties replicated Contra Costa's model, the state could experience reduced prison, jail and probation rates."

The county's crime rate and arrests run parallel to the state's 57 other counties, but prior to realignment, it sent only 13 percent of people convicted of a felony to prison, in contrast to the state's average of 20 percent, according to a January study done by the JFA Institute.

The JFA Institute study reported that not long after AB 109 passed, various county agencies convened to critique what the best approaches would be to manage post-realignment jail populations, based on evidence.

One requisite of AB 109 was for each county to create a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to submit spending plans to the state, indicating how AB 109 funding would be used. According to the JFA Institute, "such a committee existed previously" in Contra Costa County.

Sixty percent of Contra Costa's realignment funding is allocated for programs and services that are designed to

assist individuals convicted of crimes, JFA Institute reported.

"The Probation Department exhibits a solid level of professionalism in providing supervision and services to people placed on probation," the study reported. This level of confidence in probation supervision is evidenced in a low prison disposition rate, a high rate of split sentencing and short probation terms, it was reported.

"In assessing the impact of AB 109 legislation on the jail population, Contra Costa County's jail population has remained constant when compared to the overall state rate, which increased by 11 percent," the study reported.

L.A. COUNTY JAIL

The Los Angeles County jail system grew by 4,000 inmates since AB 109's implementation, with more than 6,000 AB 109 inmates, and "one of the lowest rates of split sentencing in the state (6 percent), while Contra Costa has one of the highest rates (about 90 percent)," the study noted.

Contra Costa County's jails hold fewer than 100 inmates who are AB 109 commitments, or who are on a parole hold, the study said.

"Of the people who are re-arrested, the new arrest

Matthew Cate States Shifting Low Level Offenders 'Works Better Than Expected'

By C. Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

The former head of California's prison system says shifting responsibility for certain low-level prisoners from state to county custody "has overall worked even better than expected."

"When I talk to people about how realignment is going, I like to remind folks that it's not fair to compare realignment with what was. You have to also compare it to what would have been without it," said Matthew Cate, former secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Cate made the comments in an interview reported in the April issue of *Comstock's* magazine.

Cate headed California's prison system through the state's historic budget cuts and implementation of Gov. Jerry Brown's controversial

2011 realignment (AB 109) plan. The plan shifted tens of thousands of felony offenders to local jails and parole supervision.

"It's not fair to compare realignment with what was"

"The prisons were at one point crowded to almost 200 percent of their design capacity, with recidivism rates at 65 to 70 percent. We were spending \$10 billion a year on prisons, and we had a court order that required a reduction in the prison population," Cate explained. "We would certainly have been facing massive prisoner release orders from the federal courts, along with massive increases in the percentage of the state budget

that prisons were going to take up."

Cate is now the Executive Director of the California State Association of Counties.

Violent crime rates in the state have not changed since realignment, Cate pointed out, although he acknowledged that there was a spike in auto thefts statewide that might be attributable to realignment. According to Cate, property crime rates went up after realignment at about the same rate as the rest of the country.

Cate also agreed with some criticism that the counties have not been spending the money that the state allocated to them on rehabilitative programs and instead have been spending it on law enforcement.

"I think we'll see it shift starting this year. You'll see less money going toward law enforcement and more and more going to rehabilitative programs," Cate said.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Former secretary of CDCR Matthew Cate standing in San Quentin's Central Plaza during a Demo Day event

Brown Signs Law Allowing County Jail Inmate Transfers

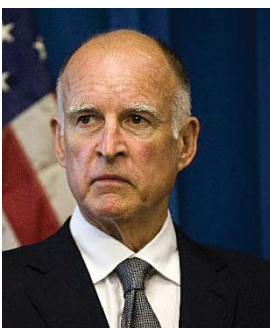
By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

In an effort to avoid early releases and reduce overcrowding, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a new law allowing counties to transfer jail inmates to other counties, the *Associated Press* reports. “The measure also gives counties additional time to build jails and adapt to the state realignment plan,” said

Mark Stone, sponsor of the measure, AB 1512. “It’s important that counties have the tools to manage jail overcrowding caused by statewide prison realignment so they can better serve inmate populations and their families.” In 2006, U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson ordered federal oversight over the California prison system because an average of one inmate was dying every week “as a result

of medical malpractice or neglect.” A three-judge panel has granted two additional years to reduce the prison population, extending the deadline to Feb. 28, 2016. The judges said no additional delays will be granted, the AP reported. “The state will not be allowed to increase the number of California inmates housed in out-of-state correctional facilities,” the AP story said.

Over the next two years, California representatives will reduce the overcrowding by “making about 350 nonviolent second offenders eligible for parole after half of their sentence is served,” it was reported. “Releasing nearly 1,600 inmates who meet certain criteria, such as having medical problems or being at least 60 years old and having served 25 years or more of their sentence,” would also reduce the prison population, the AP said. Inmates are never transferred from state prison to county jails. The state will also acceler-



Governor Brown

ate good time credits for non-violent offenders to address the proposed reduction in the next two years.

Growing Number of Women Prisoners Sparks Washington Rally

‘More women than men have suffered either physical or sexual abuse’

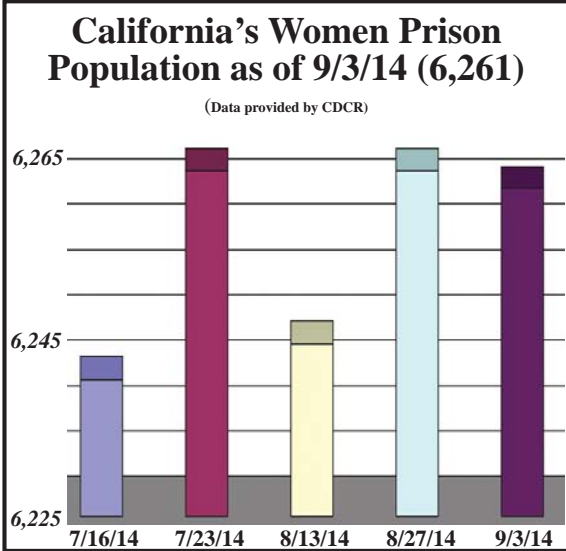
Officially, June 21 is the longest day of the year. This year, thousands of people spent the first day of summer at a rally in Washington, D.C., highlighting the growing number of women in prison. Andrea James, a former lawyer and mother of a 12-year-old daughter and 5-month-old son, spent two years at a federal prison for wire fraud. While incarcerated at Danbury, she organized a group of women called Families for Justice as Healing. Melinda Tuhus, a reporter for the radio newsmagazine *Between the Lines*, had an opportunity to interview James about the rally, which was called “Free Her.” The rally “points to the faster rate of incarceration of women over men, although men still make up the vast majority of the 2.5 million Americans in prison,” Tuhus said. When Tuhus asked James to explain the reasons for the rally, she said, “The three reasons we’re convening on the Washington Mall on the 21st, the first one as I’ve mentioned, is to raise awareness of the increase in incarceration of women in the U.S., the impact on our children and our communities. “The second reason is to encourage President Obama

to commute the sentences of women serving nonviolent drug offenses in the federal system, which is something that the Justice Department on April 23 finally came out and said they are willing to do, not just for women, but for people in the federal system serving nonviolent drug sentences and other sentences,” James said. Finally, “The third reason why we’re coming is a two-part reason in terms of legislation that’s pending right now. One is the Smarter Sentencing Act. We’re coming to raise support and to ask the folks who show up and folks in general across the country to call in, call your Congress people in support of the Smarter Sentencing Act,” James continued. In addition, she wants the public to support the Barber amendment. In her conversation with Tuhus, James explained, “The Barber amendment will restore federal parole; we lost federal parole when they introduced mandatory minimum to the federal system, and we also lost federal good time when they introduced mandatory minimums.” Tuhus reported, “More women than men have suffered either physical or sexual abuse before being jailed, and they suffer higher rates of mental illness

while incarcerated, where very few receive adequate mental health care.” Decade-long sentences mean women in prison may never have children. James, who served as the coordinator of the rally, organized the event to recognize the women she left behind. Tuhus reported, “The demands of the rally include an end to voter disenfranchisement for people with felony convictions, asking President Obama to commute the sentences of women and men in the federal system who have applied for such status.” “We started the organization (Families for Justice as Healing) as incarcerated women to use our voices to really paint a more accurate portrait of who is incarcerated,” James said. “Who are these women and what kind of impact their incarceration has on their children and on the communities they come from.” Over the last 25 years, there has been a 400 percent increase in the number of women incarcerated in the U.S. The number of African-American women has increased by 800 percent. These are “extraordinarily alarming” statistics, and “it’s mostly related to the War on Drugs,” James said. During the interview, James told Tuhus about a book, *Justice as Healing*, given to her by an American Indian woman that really made an impression on her. A prosecutor in Canada who wrote the book spoke about the native way of addressing issues that we refer to as criminal justice issues in the U.S. “Start with who that person is, who they belong to, where they came from, who their family is, what tribe they came out of, and really putting the offense that the person committed off the table and just begin to

work with the person, reminding them about the value and how important they are and the impact they’ve had on the lives of other people, and really beginning a process of justice as healing,” she explained. “Healing is what we need to do to help people. Prison doesn’t provide for that in any way. It’s not a place to expect people to begin to heal. Prisons are extraordinarily dehumanizing places,” James said.

—By Charles David Henry



California's Executions Stagnated Due to Lengthy Waiting Periods

Continued from Page 1

people have been sentenced to die. However, only 13 have been executed. “For the rest, the dysfunctional administration of California’s death penalty system has resulted, and will continue to result, in an inordinate and unpredictable period of delay preceding their actual execution,” the judge said. “Indeed, for most, systemic delay has made their execution so unlikely that the death sentence carefully and deliberately imposed by the jury has been quietly transformed into one no rational jury or legislature could ever impose: life in prison, with the remote possibility of death. “As for the random few for whom execution does become a reality, they will have languished for so long on Death Row that their execution will

serve no retributive or deterrent purpose and will be arbitrary.” The ruling came in the case of Death Row inmate Ernest DeWayne Jones, reported the *Chronicle*. Carney ruled the state’s death sentence law “violates the U.S. Constitution’s ban on cruel and unusual punishment.”

“Typically, the lapse of time between sentence and execution is 25 years”

On April 7, 1995, Jones was condemned for killing and raping his girlfriend’s mother, Julia Miller, 10 months after being paroled for a previous

rape. “Nearly two decades later, Mr. Jones remains on California’s Death Row, awaiting his execution, but with complete uncertainty as to when, or even whether, it will ever come,” said Carney. Explaining why the California death penalty system is so dysfunctional, Carney said, “Those sentenced to death in California proceed through a post-conviction review process that begins with a mandatory automatic appeal to the California Supreme Court. If that appeal is denied, an inmate may seek collateral review of the death sentence, again from the California Supreme Court. If state habeas relief is denied, an inmate may then pursue collateral review of the death sentence from the federal courts. If relief is denied at each of these levels, then the inmate may be executed.”

“Allowing this system to continue to threaten Mr. Jones with the slight possibility of death, almost a generation after he was first sentenced, violates the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment,” the judge wrote. “The California Supreme Court generally hears between 20 and 25 death penalty appeals per year, and so another two to three years will likely pass before arguments are scheduled and the case is subsequently decided,” the judge said. According to the *Chronicle*, years will have elapsed, with inmates spending much of that time waiting for counsel to be appointed and for an oral argument to be scheduled. It takes between 11.7 and 13.7 years from the sentence of death before the California Supreme Court disposes of the automatic direct appeal. Carney said, the delays “have

created a system in which arbitrary factors, rather than legitimate ones like the nature of the crime or the date of the death sentence, determine whether an individual will actually be executed,” *Los Angeles Times* reported. “For those whose challenge to the state’s death sentence is ultimately denied at each level of review, the process will likely take 25 years or more,” Santa Clara University law professor Gerald Uelmen wrote in his book *Death Penalty Appeals and Habeas Proceeding: The California Experience*. Uelmen told the *Los Angeles Times* that it is conceivable that the U.S. Supreme Court and the 9th Circuit could say California’s system is so dysfunctional that it cannot be sustained. A spokesperson for state Attorney General Kamala D. Harris said her office was reviewing the decision.

Human Rights Group Criticizes Prison Tactic Called ‘Potty Watch’

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

A California prisons tactic called “Contraband Surveillance Watch,” also known as “potty watch,” intended to control contraband seriously abuses prisoners’ rights, a human rights group says.

“The practice is the worst I’ve seen of prison abuses,” said Laura Magnani of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Hundreds of California state inmates were forced last year to defecate into a receptacle while chained and shackled, and surrounded by guards, some of them female, according to a June 2014 article in *The Guardian*. The author was Shane Bauer, who was imprisoned in Iran for about 18 months for allegedly spying.

Inmate Michael Bloom is one of more than 20 inmates who described their experiences to *The Guardian*.

Bloom said while incarcerated at California’s High Desert State Prison in 2009, he was put inside of a small holding cage and told to strip naked. Then, two correctional officers put his boxer

underwear on him. They were placed on backward and taped to his body. Layers of tape were wrapped around his waist and thighs.

An additional pair of boxers was put on him and also taped to his body. Bloom was dressed in a jumpsuit and shackled in ankle chains and wrist cuffs, which were chained to another chain that wrapped around his waist.

The practice has been carried out this way for at least 40 years, and is in accordance with the state’s official guidelines for the procedure, said Jeffrey Callison, spokesperson for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Termed “dry cell,” it’s a procedure commonly used in prisons around the country, Bauer reported. Suspected inmates are made to pass stool a number of times before they are released back into the general population, Bauer wrote.

California may be the only state that keeps the inmates chained and shackled during the process, the story stated.

Bloom, 33, who said he was imprisoned in 2007 for two violent felony offenses, said he

remained chained and shackled for eight days.

“By the second day, I was already getting sores on my ankles since the leg cuffs were cutting into my skin,” he wrote.

Callison told *The Guardian* Contraband Surveillance Watch is justified because “contraband can undermine the safety of the facility and the community.”

Other claims, also made by Bloom, were similarly made by other inmates, some of whom have sued to challenge the practice, claiming it violates the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Bloom says that some nights he was forced to stand every 15 minutes, which prevented him from sleeping. He says that at mealtimes, chained and shackled, he was forced to bend over and eat directly off the tray with his mouth, the way a dog would eat.

He also says that he was not allowed to bathe for the entire eight-day period.

He recounts how, when he had to defecate, he was taken to a small yard where the tape was cut off his body. His clothes were brought down to his ankles, and



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Inmate being escorted from his cell in the San Quentin Adjustment Center

several guards, male and female, surrounded him as he made attempts to defecate into a receptacle.

Once successful, the guards would dig through his feces in search of contraband.

“As I would be standing there naked I felt violated, and at times I could not even go to the bathroom,” said Bloom.

At the end of his eight-day ordeal, he said he was not found to have ingested any contraband.

One lawyer fighting against alleged prisoner abuse commented, “The world seems to universally decry these practices as unconstitutional, but with respect to Americans at home in our own prisons, the courts con-

tinue to uphold them. I find that troubling.”

Indeed the courts have upheld California’s procedure. Concerning the issue, 9th Circuit Judge Jay Bybee said that acts only constitute torture if they produce the sort of severe pain associated with organ failure or death.

Bauer wrote that CDCR records show that last year “Contraband Surveillance Watch” was performed on at least 524 occasions. According to records, less than half of California inmates who underwent Contraband Surveillance Watch last year were found to have ingested illegal substances, most of which were drugs

Criminal Justice Reform Raises Eyebrows in Congress

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

At one point, recently, there seemed to be growing Congressional support for criminal justice reforms in the United States – and then it hit a roadblock.

Earlier this year a Republican and a Democrat sponsored lengthy sentence reform bills that were expected to come up for a vote by the end of the summer. It was one of those rare and extraordinary circumstances when there was bipartisan support for a political is-

sue, the *The New York Times* wrote in an editorial.

The bills would “reduce lengthy sentences for many low-level drug offenders and another that would give low-risk inmates credit toward early release if they participate in job training and drug treatment

programs,” *The Times* added.

But the change didn’t happen and now Congressional representatives are looking to 2015 before these bills have any chance of passing.

The delay in getting these bills through Congress results in tens of thousand of federal inmates who have already served years of long sentences “wasting both their lives and taxpayer dollars” sitting in overcrowded prisons with no demonstrable benefit to public safety, *The Times* reported.

The delay appears due to one factor: old guard stalwarts who refuse to let go of their tough-on-crime mindset.

The *Times* reported, “In May, three Republican senators — Charles Grassley of Iowa, John Cornyn of Texas and Jeff Sessions of Alabama — came out against the sentencing reductions.” These three argued that mandatory minimums are only used for the highest-level drug traffickers.

The United States Sentencing Commission disputes this assertion. The agency “found that 40 percent of federal drug defendants were couriers or low-level dealers,” *The Times* said.

“With the exception of some old-line prosecutors and resistant lawmakers, everyone still agrees on the need for extensive reform. The other branches of the federal government have begun to do their part,” reported *The Times*.

In April, the Obama administration announced it would consider clemency for hundreds,

if not thousands, of federal inmates currently serving time under older, harsher drug laws. However, Republicans complained that the president and Attorney General Eric Holder were the main reasons that sentencing reform stalled.

Federal judges across the country have spoken out against the mindlessness of mandatory minimums.

Holder and the sentencing commission have taken multiple steps to reduce the harsh and often racially discriminatory effects of these laws. According to the *Times*, “The public is on board, too.”

In a “recent Pew survey, 67 percent say the government should focus more on treating drug users than on prosecuting them,” *The Times* said.

Several members of Congress led by Rand Paul of Kentucky, Mike Lee of Utah, Ted Cruz of Texas and Jeff Flake of Arizona are leading the charge for sentence reform. They believe “the need for it has become more urgent,” *The Times* editorial board wrote.

“States from South Carolina to Ohio to Rhode Island have cut back on mandatory minimums, improved rehabilitation services and reduced their prison populations while seeing crime rates go down, or at least not go up.

“Judicial pronouncements and executive orders only go so far. It is long past time for Congress to do its job and change these outdated, ineffective and unjust laws,” *The Times* said.

Ballot Measure Misses Deadline For November 2014 Elections

Continued from Page 1

The initiative, backed by supporters of the death penalty, including former California governors George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Gray Davis, had only collected a couple hundred thousand signatures before the campaign was suspended in May of this year. Chris Orrock, spokesman for the ballot measure, told Bob Egelko, a reporter for the *Chronicle*, that suspending the campaign will allow supporters more time to raise money and gather signatures. They now hope to qualify the measure for the November 2016 ballot. The initiative required 807,615 valid signatures to qualify.

In his interview with Egelko, Orrock stated that the proposed changes would speed up the execution process and save money without taking away fairness and due process.

“We’ll use the next year or so to continue to educate the public about the changes to the

criminal justice system that this initiative makes,” he said.

At the same time, supporters of Proposition 34 – the 2012 measure that would have abolished the death penalty in the state – are also planning to get their initiative on the November 2016 ballot. Proposition 34 was supported by former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and former San Quentin State Prison Warden Jeanne Woodford who was also director of Corrections for the California prisons. Prop. 34 lost, picking up 48 percent of the vote.

In a statement by Garcetti, death penalty opponents called the death penalty “broken beyond repair” and say that the proposed ballot measure to shorten the wait time for executions would only serve to make the system more secretive and expensive.

Egelko reported that the proposed initiative would place

a five-year limit on death row appeals in state court, put time limits on state judges to make rulings, eliminate public hearings on execution procedures and allow the state to obtain lethal injection drugs from sources other than licensed pharmacies. Opponents of the measure say this will lead to secret policies and the use of untested drug combinations from secret sources. They point to the drawn-out April 29 execution of a convict in Oklahoma, where the man ultimately died of a heart attack.

California has the nation’s largest number of inmates on death row, with approximately 750 condemned to death. However, the state has executed only 13 inmates since the death penalty was reinstated by ballot initiative in 1978, and none since February 2006 when a federal judge ruled that lethal injection procedures were flawed and could lead to undue suffering for the inmate.

Policy Maker’s Solution to England and United States’ Criminal Justice Problems

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

When it comes to criminal justice policies, England and the U.S. have some of the same problems.

As an example, during the past four decades both countries have had a sustained and widespread imprisonment binge and both have recognized that their current criminal justice policies are morally and economically unsustainable. Moreover, both refuse to follow the data telling policymakers how to fix their criminal justice systems.

Nick Hardwick, the chief inspector of prisons in the United Kingdom (UK), describes England’s criminal justice system as the “Swiss cheese theory of disasters,” presumably because it has so many holes in it.

Early this year, the independent, non-partisan government analyst Little Hoover Commission described California’s correctional system as “a slow motion disaster.”

On the federal level, independent, non-partisan Inspector General Michael Horowitz told journalist Andrew Cohen that even though the federal government knew since 2006 that prison overcrowding and prison capacity were problematic, “the

numbers haven’t improved, they’ve gotten arguably worse and are on the path ... to continue to get worse in the years ahead.”

The Rand Corporation has shown through the analysis of millions of cases that vocational training and correctional education are effective ways to reduce recidivism.

“Realignment alone
will not solve the
state’s overcrowded
prisons”

Britain’s Hardwick recognizes that, “You need to make rehabilitation the central point,” according to a report in *The Independent*, a British newspaper.

Hardwick said English prisons are deceptive. “Bear in mind whenever you see an official photograph of a prison cell, they seem really enormous,” he said. “But really, they’re not.” It may be hard for people to imagine having to live two to a room, where “you can practically touch both walls,” Hardwick said. “Prisoners are sometimes being locked in those cells for 23 hours a day.”

His description sounds a lot

like San Quentin. If Hardwick toured this prison, he’d find he actually *could* touch both walls inside a cell and that each prisoner has to live in that space with another man.

Then there is the reality that California prison conditions have been found to be unconstitutional because the state cannot deliver adequate medical care to the inmates.

So apparently there is little difference between the UK and US prison systems except for one small matter – the overall numbers.

One statistic that should raise questions for every American taxpayer is this: The U.S. has an incarceration rate of 716 people for every 100,000 in population as opposed to the UK’s rate of 147 per 100,000. The U. S. has 5 percent of the world’s population, but has about 25 percent of the world’s prisoners. In 1980, the nation’s prison budget was about \$6 billion per year. Today, that figure is about \$80 billion.

The immense costs of incarceration have inspired a new conversation about reducing the prison population as a matter of fiscal responsibility and budgetary necessity. The discussion often centers on cutting down on the arrests and prosecutions of “non-violent drug offenders.”

But reducing the prison population for fiscal and budgetary reasons ignores a much more pressing concern – the aging prison population. The rising cost of incarcerating and caring for elderly inmates will soon prove unsustainable if meaningful action is not taken.

In addition to the cost, reliance on long-term mass incarceration of aging citizens has serious moral, ethical, public health and public safety implications. But if taxpayers disregard those factors and focus only on the money, the U.S. currently spends \$16 billion annually on incarceration for individuals aged 50 and older — more than the entire Department of Energy budget or Department of Education funding for school improvements.

Today, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is starting to focus more on rehabilitation. But prison officials have done this before. Unfortunately, they quit under Jerry Brown’s first governorship back in the ’70s. Now, the state has undertaken a new approach to reducing the prison population, called Realignment.

The Little Hoover Commission is telling Californians something that they should pay close attention to: “Criminal justice policies that rely on building and op-

erating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable, and will not result in improved public safety.” Moreover, the commission tells Californians that Realignment alone will not solve the state’s overcrowded prisons. Long, mandatory sentencing laws have to be examined and changed. The criminal justice policy has to incorporate a way for offenders to be rehabilitated and returned to their communities.

The commission looked at Contra Costa County as a model for California criminal justice policy because the county spent a significant amount of its resources on rehabilitative efforts, shorter sentences and health services. The three-year recidivism rate for felony probationers in Contra Costa County was 20 percent, compared to the statewide average of 60 percent or higher.

Bill Clinton’s campaign manager, James Carville, once famously said, “It’s the economy, stupid.” That generated a lot of attention and brought economic issues to the forefront in the campaign. I would like to modify that sound bite by saying to CDCR, the governor and the Legislature when planning to solve prison problems, “It’s *rehabilitation*.”

Increase in Longer Sentences for Repeat Offenders on the Rise

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

Locking up offenders with sentences of 25 years or longer for repeated arrests has increased in the U.S. since 1960. The U.S. criminal justice system has been on a streak for more than 40 years, giving out mandatory minimum sentences to offenders who break the law.

This is starting to change.

“There’s a reason it’s called ‘corrections’ and not ‘punishment,’” said the Executive Director of Colorado Department of Corrections. According to Rick Raemisch, “Punishment doesn’t work.” This is the sentiment of several states attempting to reverse decades of judicial policy.

In his story, June of this year, reporter Christopher Moraff of *Next City* said several U.S. jurisdictions “are beginning to look overseas for alternative models” in an effort to reverse these policies.

In February 2013, a delegation of correction administrators from Colorado, Georgia and Pennsylvania set out on a

fact-finding trip to Germany and the Netherlands, sponsored by the Vera Institute of Justice.

“Both countries have largely replaced retributive and deterrence models with one whose primary goal is reintegrating inmates back into society as law-abiding citizens,” Moraff said.

Punitive mass incarceration, said Moraff, “is not only exceedingly costly, but since 95 percent of inmates will eventually be released back into the community, it does little to help society either.”

While in the Netherlands and Germany, the delegation from the U.S. saw inmates living in rooms and sleeping on beds, not concrete or steel slabs with little padding. They saw correctional officers knocking before entering the inmates’ quarters, respecting their privacy.

Inmates at these facilities wore their own clothes. “They cook their own meals, are paid for work that they do and have opportunities to visit family, learn skills and gain education,” reported Moraff.

The German and Dutch administrators are committed to keeping inmates engaged in their communities. “Prisoners retain their right to vote during their sentences, and many offenders are given the option of spending weekends at home with their families,” Moraff said.

“There’s a reason
it’s called
‘corrections’
and not
‘punishment’”

One delegate on the trip, Kellie Wasko, a former warden, said that while this may seem antithetical to many Americans’ idea of what prison should be, she believes an inmate should maintain contact with loved ones and considers it a critical factor in lowering recidivism.

“We know that one of the primary criminogenic factors that leads to reoffending is

a lack of family bonding,” Wasko told Moraff.

A similar type of programming could be especially beneficial for lower-level custody and low-risk offenders in the U.S., Wasko said

The German and Dutch prison experience focuses on rehabilitation. Staffing in prison is composed largely of attorneys, social workers and mental health professionals. In the U.S., prison workers are placed in cellblocks after correctional training.

German prison workers are trained for two years. In Colorado, workers are put on the line in two weeks. Over the next year, the Colorado DOC is going to begin training corrections staff in client-centered counseling techniques, Wasko told Moraff.

“We can’t replace all of our supervisors with attorneys and social workers, but we can start changing their mentality to show inmates that we’re here to advocate for them,” she said.

John Wetzel, secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Corrections, said the department is “restructuring its basic training for officers in an effort to emphasize communication skills, motivational interview-

ing techniques, conflict resolution and mental health first-aid training,” Moraff reported.

According to Moraff, research shows that nations that favor reintegration over punishment have lower rates of recidivism.

The goal of confinement should not only be about public safety, said Moraff, but also “successful reintegration.” Locking someone up in prison is the last resort in many European countries.

“In Germany and the Netherlands, less than one in 10 convicted criminal offenders are actually sent to prison. In the U.S., that number is closer to 70 percent,” Moraff said.

A third of all criminal cases in Germany are diverted away from prosecution, instead requiring offenders to pay reparations, attend classes or do community service. German courts typically “suspend all custodial sentences of fewer than two years, amounting to a de facto term of probation,” said Moraff.

The Dutch favor fines over incarceration. Since 1980, 90 percent of all crimes committed in the Netherlands, including murder, have a fine as one of several adjudicatory options available.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

San Quentin News Rejected by Some Prisons

From Ricky in Corcoran:

I have talked to our librarian about getting 200 copies of *San Quentin News*. If she’d do her job, she would have contacted you guys to get them. Until then, I’ll have to keep sending stamps to get a paper. Make sure you

send me the August issue.

Thank you and God bless.

Response: Ricky sent us three stamps; however, it now costs us \$1.61 to mail the newspaper to our readers. As far as the librarian contacting us for the 200 issues, we have ex-

tended our offer to send 200 free newspapers to every single prison in California. Eighteen prisons have accepted our offer. California State Prison-Corcoran is not one of them. By the way, Ricky has been sent his August issue of *San Quentin News*.

EDITORIAL

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Mexican Independence Day Celebrated on September 16

By Tare Beltranchuc
Contributing Writer

Mexicans celebrate Sept. 16 as Independence Day, the date when the native people threw out the Spanish oppression they had endured for 300 years.

The Mexican Independence was a long and challenging political and social process, which ended the rule of Spain over “New Spain” (now México). During that period, México was striving to become free from the oppression and tyranny of “the hated ‘gachupines’ (Spaniards born in Spain and living in México), who had been exploiting the wealth of the Mexican people” since the Spaniards invaded México in 1521, writes Enrique Krauze, author of *México: Biography of Power*.

According to a chronicle of the time, Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain in 1808 and México took advantage to initiate the independence movement to shake off the Spanish yoke while Spain was involved in defending its own territory.

The military commander, Ignacio Allende, was one of the most notorious leaders of this revolt. He knew that the Mexicans were faithful followers of the Catholic church and invited

Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a 57-year old priest from an old family of “criollos” (Mexican-born Spaniards), to persuade the people to rise up in arms.

Hidalgo had been conspiring for months with comrades to rebel against the “gachupines” on Oct. 12, 1810. However, “infiltrators compromised” the original date and this caused Hidalgo to speed up the rebellion.

“Thus, early on the morning of Sept. 16,” Hidalgo ran to the church and “clanked the church bells,” calling to all the people to gather, “to proclaim the Independence of his Nation.” A small and poorly armed group of Indians, Mestizos, Mulattoes and others holding “the Banner of la Virgen de Guadalupe,” were present.

Hidalgo’s followers responded to the call with whatever was at their disposal: sticks, machetes, knives, stones, slings and spears. They all shouted in agreement “with hoarse cries of ‘Long live México! Long

live the Virgin of Guadalupe! Let’s go kill the gachupines!’” It is “a ritual now repeated with much commercial zest throughout México on the eve of Sept. 16, also known as

“Mexican night,” author John Ross writes in *The Annexation of México*.

Since 1810, the Independence movement went through several phases as its leaders were imprisoned and executed by the forces of Spain. According to a chronicle of the time, some of the most relevant accomplishments achieved by Hidalgo and Allende during the first phase were the abolition of slavery, reforms that would bridge the

huge gap between the rich and the poor and doing away with the payment of tribute.

Then, “Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon, a Mulatto priest of Michoacán, inherited Hidalgo’s decimated army.” Nevertheless, he continued fighting for the rights of the oppressed nation. He edited “The National Sentiments,” in which “he requested the Independence of México from Spain,” Ross says.

After the death of Morelos on Dec. 22, 1815, on San Cristóbal Ecatepec, the movement was reduced to a guerrilla war. It was one of the most difficult times of the insurrection, which led to the emergence of Vicente Guerrero, who “took up the torch” of the revolt and kept alive the hopes of the nation, Ross writes.

A turning point in the movement was the alliance of Guerrero and Agustín de Iturbide, known as “Acatempan’s embrace,” on Feb. 10, 1821. This

union led to the representatives of the Spanish crown and Iturbide signing the Treaty of Cordova, which recognized Mexican Independence under the terms of the Plan de Iguala, according to Ross.

After 11 years of struggle, the war of Independence became a reality on Sept. 27, 1821, when the army of insurgents entered México City. That put an end to 300 years of Spanish tyranny against the Aztec people, Ross says.

Sept. 16 is a great opportunity for all Mexicans to set aside differences and come together to celebrate in honor of the heroes of independence. According to Ross, this insurrection took a toll of 600,000 lives that made possible today’s freedom.

In the Mexican community, people celebrate this important event by indulging themselves with “quesadillas, gorditas, mole, tostadas, pozole, chalupas and tacos” (Mexican traditional dishes), along with “Tequila, pulque y mezcal” (Mexican traditional drinks).

The night of “The Cry of Independence” is enlivened by the mariachis and bandas.

—Marco Villa contributed to this story



Dia de la Independencia Mexicana Celebrada El 16 de Septiembre

Por Marco Villa
Escritore Contribuyente

Los Mexicanos celebran el 16 de Sept. Como el Día de la Independencia, la fecha cuando el pueblo nativo expulso la opresión Española que ellos habían tolerado por 300 años.

La Independencia Mexicana fue un largo y desafiante proceso político y social lo cual termino con el reinado de España sobre “Nueva España” (Hoy México). Durante ese periodo, México se esforzaba para llegar a ser libre de la opresión y tiranía “de los odiados ‘gachupines’ (Españoles nacidos en España y viviendo en México), quienes habían estado explotando la riqueza del pueblo Mexicano” desde que los Españoles invadieron México en 1521, Enrique Krauze dice. Krauze es el autor de México: Biografía de Poder.

De acuerdo a la crónica

de aquel tiempo, Napoleón Bonaparte invadió España en 1808 de lo cual México tomo ventaja e inicio el movimiento de la Independencia para sacudirse el yugo Español ya que España estaba más involucrada en defender su propio territorio.

El comandante militar, Ignacio Allende, fue uno de los líderes más notorios de ésta rebelión. Él sabía que los Mexicanos eran fieles devotos a la iglesia Católica e invito a Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, un sacerdote de 57-años de edad descendiente de una antigua familia de “criollos” (Mexicanos de padres Españoles), para persuadir al pueblo levantarse en armas.

Hidalgo y sus aliados habían estado pactando por meses la rebelión contra los “gachupines” para el 12 de Oct. de 1810. Sin embargo, “espías comprometeron” la fecha original, lo cual ocasiono que Hidalgo acelerara la rebelión.

“Por lo tanto, temprano por la mañana del 16 de Sept.” Hidalgo corrió hacia la parroquia y “tocó las campanas de la iglesia,” convocando al pueblo a que se unieran “para proclamar la Independencia de su Nación.” Un pequeño y pobremente armado grupo de Indígenas, Mestizos, Mulatos y otros sosteniendo “el Estandarte de la Virgen de Guadalupe,” se hicieron presentes.

Los seguidores de Hidalgo respondieron al llamado con lo que estaba a su alcance: palos, machetes, cuchillos, piedras, lanzas y hondas. Todos ellos gritaron al unísono “con júbilo ¡Viva México!... ¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!... ¡Mueran los gachupines!” Esta es “una tradición que se repite con entusiasmo por todo México en la noche del 16 de Sept. también conocida como “la noche Mexicana,” John Ross escribe. Ross es el autor de La

Anexión de México.

Desde 1810, el movimiento de la Independencia atravesó varias etapas debido a que sus líderes fueron encarcelados y ejecutados por las fuerzas de España. De acuerdo a la crónica de aquel tiempo, algunos de los logros más relevantes de Hidalgo y Allende durante la primer etapa fueron la abolición de la esclavitud, reformas que terminarían con la gran diferencia que existía entre el rico y el pobre, y así mismo eliminar el pago del tributo.

Después, “José Maria Morelos y Pavón, un sacerdote mulato proveniente de las tierras calientes de Michoacán, heredó el ejército diezmado de Hidalgo.” Sin embargo, él continuó peleando por los derechos de la nación oprimida. Él editó “Los Sentimientos de la Nación,” en los cuales “él solicitó la Independencia de México de los Españoles,” Ross dice.

Después de la muerte de Morelos el 22 de Dec. de 1815 en San Cristóbal Ecatepec, el movimiento se redujo a una guerra de guerrillas. Este fue uno de los tiempos más difíciles de la insurrección, lo cual llevó al surgimiento de Vicente Guerrero quien “tomo la antorcha” de la rebelión y mantuvo con vida las esperanzas de la nación, Ross escribe.

Un momento decisivo en el movimiento fue la alianza entre Guerrero y Agustín de Iturbide, mejor conocida como “El abrazo de Acatempan” el 10 de Feb. de 1821. Esta unión llevó a los representantes de la corona Española e Iturbide a firmar el Tratado de Córdoba, el cual reconocía la Independencia Mexicana bajo los términos del Plan de Iguala, de acuerdo a Ross.

Después de 11 años de luchar, la guerra por la Independencia se hizo realidad el 27 de Sept. de

1821 cuando el ejército Trigarante entro triunfante a la Ciudad de México. Eso puso fin a 300 años de tiranía Española contra la gente Azteca, Ross dice.

El 16 de Sept. es una gran oportunidad para que todos los Mexicanos hagan a un lado sus diferencias personales y se reúnan para celebrar en honor de los héroes de la Independencia. Ross señala, que la insurrección cobro la cifra de 600,000 vidas que hicieron posible la libertad que hoy disfrutan los Mexicanos.

nos.

En la comunidad Mexicana, la gente celebra este importante acontecimiento dándose gusto con “Quesadillas, gorditas, mole, tostadas, pozole, chalupas y tacos” (platillos tradicionales Mexicanos), acompañados con “Tequila, pulque y mezcal” (bebidas tradicionales Mexicanas).

La noche de “El Grito de la Independencia” es amenizada con música de mariachis y bandas.

—Tare Beltranchuc contibuyo a esta historia

CORRECTION:

In the August 2014 edition of *San Quentin News* on page 15, a photo showing Antwan “Banks” Williams mistakenly says he is “Rodney ‘RC’ Capell as Ruby.”

The staff of *San Quentin News* apologizes to the characters of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and to its director, and supporters including: Lesley Currier, Suraya Keating, Rebecca, John O. Neblett, Carlos Meza, Le Mar “Maverick” Harrison, Adrian, Nythell “Nate” Collins, Joey Mason, JulianGlenn Padgett, Rodney “RC” Capell, Marianne, Lynn, Belize Villafranco, Mr. Eric Vidal Lowery, Lee Jaspar, Mr. Angelo, Antwan Williams, Carlos Flores, Reese, Eddie Raja-pasith, C.R. Marshall, and James A. Mays, Sr.

Once Upon a Time at San Quentin, Warden's Edition is a coffee table pictorial and historical trip tied in one.

John Wedgwood Golden assembled his exceptional first-hand stories about San Quentin from the perspective of a prison guard, such as *Watch Your Back, The San Quentin Ghost of Death Row Alley, and The Living Dungeon*.

“This book is dedicated to all murdered Sons of San Quentin, both Staff and Inmates, and to their loved ones left behind,” writes Golden.

Golden worked tirelessly on this project wanting to get it out before the passing of his father, who died on August 28.

A full review of *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* will appear in the October edition of *San Quentin News* so that Golden's father may look down while watching “the book take off, like I know it will,” he said at home on his deathbed.

Golden will donate proceeds from book sales to *San Quentin News*.

The image shows the cover of the book "Once Upon a Time at San Quentin". It features a black and white photograph of the San Quentin Prison building, a large, multi-story structure with many windows. The title "ONCE UPON A TIME" is at the top in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below the photo, the text "AT SAN QUENTIN" is written in a similar font.

Inspiring Performance Held in Catholic Chapel

By Harun Taylor
Staff Writer

The night felt more like being at Yoshi's in Jack London Square in Oakland than the Chapel of the Rosary in San Quentin State Prison. Lee Jasper, accompanied by members of The Jazz Band, Dwight Krizman and Greg Dixon, played "Theta Bop," an up-tempo original song to close an exciting night of beginning and accomplished pianist recitals.

"I'm sending this program home to my nieces and nephews," said inmate James Parker, who attended the Aug. 3 recital. "I want them to know that even in a place like this, something beautiful can come out of dark places."

Instructor Trish Allred opened the evening with introductions and commented, "I am so excited! Many of them are doing their own pieces that they wrote themselves. It is great that they are ready to show everyone what they can do. I am so proud of them." Allred is a professional pianist who has been teaching

piano lessons at The Q for the past two years.

Community Resource Manager Steve Emrick said, "I approached Trish, who was a volunteer in the chapel; I talked her into teaching piano. Within two weeks, she had papers out, and the people were working. I want to thank her for volunteering and putting extra time into this."

Then Jasper presented Allred with a Letter of Appreciation on behalf of the entire class.

As the evening progressed, the men in blue at The Q demonstrated that music is a universal language. They did so with original pieces and "classics" including "Brothers & Sisters, Can't You See?" (inspired by the Amala Walk two years ago), and "Love is Listening," by Gino Servacos." S.Q. Athletics utility baseball player Robert Tyler exhibited his dexterity by playing Fleetwood Mac's "Songbird" and Chopin's "Opus 9, No. 2 Nocturne."

JulianGlenn Padgett was one of the highlights of the evening, performing two original pieces, "Beautiful Things" and "They're

Only Words."

"I'm not warmed up, so don't expect much," he joked. Padgett has a soulful quality to his voice, reminiscent of award-winning singers Brian McKnight and Kem.

"Some of these gentlemen have never had a chance to express themselves musically, but I think you'll enjoy it when they do express themselves," Allred stated between sets. "Music is a healing source for people. It is amazing to have so much music and healing in San Quentin."

Before his debut on the piano, Kevin Sawyer was smiling. "I feel more together than I do when I play the guitar." Sawyer is an accomplished guitarist; however, he did Lionel Richie and The Commodores proud with his rendition of "Easy."

Many times throughout the recital, when the pianist lost a note, the crowd became the metronome, lending their hands to provide a beat.

"I feel good, nervous, excited," said Phillip Melendez before the recital began. "I'm ready to rock this joint, literally,

because it's the joint," Melendez said, laughing. Melendez played a rendition of "The Scientist" by Coldplay.

Before performing Glenn Frey and Don Henley's "Desperado," Michael Nightingale said he felt a little anxiety as he stepped on the small stage. "I usually play guitar. This is my first for the piano."

Joey Barnes did a rendition of Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel, a short but difficult piece with five repeating chords. Despite a few missteps, Barnes put forth a very good effort.

"I feel good," Barnes said with a huge smile. "I was very nervous, but the creativity started to flow; it is a difficult piece."

"I feel good," said Nightingale after his performance. "Now I gotta learn how to sing it while I'm playing!" he said with a huge smile.

Allred performed "Wings of the Wind," a song about God flying on cherubim wings; "Some day, we will get to fly along with Him," she said.

Many of the 30 or so men in the room closed their eyes and

flew with Allred as she sang with the voice of an angel, nodding to the smooth rhythmic sound as voice blended with keys gently caressed by an expert pianist.

The program:
Robert Tyler- Songbird (Fleetwood Mac) Opus 9, No. 2 Nocturn (Chopin)
JulianGlenn Padgett- Beautiful Things & They're Only Words
Kevin D. Sawyer- Easy (The Commodores)
Joey Barnes- Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel)
Michael Nightingale - Desperado (Glenn Frey & Don Henley)
Gino Sevacos- Brothers & Sisters, Can't You See & Listening
Phillip Melendez- The Scientist (Coldplay)
Michael Adams- For the Lord is Good (Terry MacAlmon)
David Jassy- When I Was Your Man (Bruno Mars)
Lee Jasper -Theta Bop & Song for Trish
Trish Allred- Wings of the Wind & I Hear You

Artist Spends Prison Time Sharing His Many Talents and Experiences

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Writer

Noted musician David Jassy shares his music production knowledge, performance talent and experience with the men at San Quentin since arriving as an inmate one year ago.

The artist, songwriter and music producer had a song nominated for a Swedish Grammy Award in the best dance category in 1999.

Jassy, 40, was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden. His father is a doctor from The Gambia in West Africa. His mother was a scientist.

"I never stopped writing music," said Jassy. "I wrote music in the county jail."

Jassy makes no pretense when he is teaching the men how to make music at San Quentin Prison Report (SQPR) in the facility's media center, where he is assigned to produce music.

"He has taught me a lot with music production," said Earlonne Woods, another inmate who volunteers in the media

center. "I believe he does a hell of a job with his performance."

"He's sculpting our words," said Nigel Poor, a producer with the San Quentin Prison Report radio and professor of photography at California State University, Sacramento. "The music that he adds becomes an essential character to the stories. Now it's at a completely different level."

Jassy said he started writing music in the mid-'80s. He was influenced by West African music, R&B, Christian music and the hip-hop culture was, at the time, still in its infancy.

"I kind of mixed all the genres together," said Jassy, who recalls being inspired by the works of Public Enemy, Run DMC, Grandmaster Flash, Eric B and Rakim. "That whole era laid the foundation for my music career."

Jassy said he "got deeper into music" at age 17 after his mother died in an automobile accident in Italy. He, his brother and two of his sisters were also injured in the crash.

A few months after the accident, while still in high school, Jassy signed his first record deal with Stockholm Records. He then toured around Scandinavia.

At age 22, Jassy went back into the studio, and Andres Avelan, a Chilean-born artist and producer, joined him. Together they

formed the group Navigators.

After showcasing their act to several record companies, they signed with Arcade Music. "At the time, it was very unusual for a hip-hop act to sign with Arcade," said Jassy.

Come into My Life was Navigators' first single, and it was a hit. The group's second single was I Remember, but it was "Superstar," their third single, in 1999 that made it to number one on the Swedish dance chart for six weeks, number one on MTV Europe and lots of radio play. The same year they released their debut album "Daily Life Illustrators."

Jassy said while with Navigators they were able to tour and release music in Europe, Asia, Cuba, Mexico, South America and Africa.

In the process of recording and producing their sophomore album, Jassy said Navigators split up. However, he went on to write songs for artists such as Ashley Tisdale, Charice, Sean Kingston, Iyaz and other European groups.

"Warner Brothers in New York liked the songs I wrote for Ashley's first album, and they invited me to Los Angeles to write songs for her second album," said Jassy. He has been featured on two of Tisdale's hit singles, Be Good to Me and Crank it Up.

Jassy said he wrote the song Pyramid for singer Charice, which was her first single.

"My cellie woke me up in the middle of the night to tell me my song (Pyramid) was on Oprah's show," where Charice performed it, said Jassy.

Jassy said he was happy about the song's success, but saddened by the reality that he was imprisoned when it debuted.

Pyramid hit number one on

Billboard in 2010, and ABS CBN News (www.abs-cbnnews.com) reported Charice's Pyramid number four in Yahoo's most irresistible category that year.

After Jassy was arrested in November 2008 and subsequently convicted, he concentrated on playing guitar and piano. He has added writing Christian music to his repertoire and has performed in San Quentin's Garden Chapel.

"Regardless of my present situation, I feel extremely blessed and grateful that I am able to work with music," said Jassy. "I am ever so mindful to give God the glory for it."

"At Solano (state prison) I really picked it up," said Jassy. "I fine-tuned my skills on keyboard and piano."

Jassy participated in the Alternatives to Violence Program while at Solano. At San Quentin, he is a participant in an anger management program called GRIP (Guiding Range Into Power).

Now that he is in prison, Jassy plays for a different fan base - other prisoners, staff and outside guests. He is currently a member of the hip-hop band Contagious.

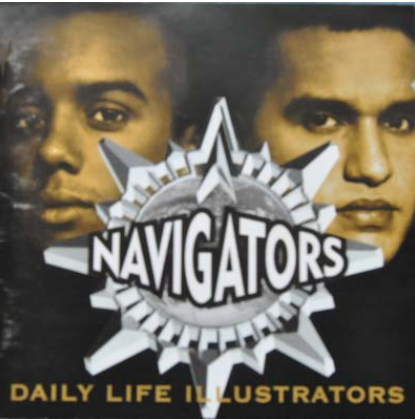
"Music is emotions, and it requires teamwork, especially in a band situation where you have to work as a group," said Jassy. "Each player contributes to the final product, which is a song."

Earlier this year, Jassy and



File photo

David Jassy



David Jassy and
Andres Avelan's Album Cover

the band performed in a video, San Quentin Music Lockdown, to raise money for the prison's music program.

The band was also invited to perform for the prison's on-site Patten University graduation, the Kid CAT banquet to celebrate rehabilitation accomplishments and the annual Day of Peace event.

Jassy said the music industry focuses on making money, but the San Quentin music program "helps me to use my time constructively, and go deeper into the craft. Now I write from (my) experience."

Jassy said that he believes "people who express themselves with music are less likely to express it with violence."

Jassy said every prison should give inmates the opportunity to play music. "I believe that music is a very powerful tool for rehabilitation."

"I'm grateful for people such as Trish Allred (his piano teacher) and Raphaelae Casale (San Quentin's music sponsor)," said Jassy. "They give their time and allow us to grow and to have the opportunity to practice." For more information go to www.davidjassy.com

\$2.5 Million Awarded to Arts-in-Corrections Programs

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

After an absence of more than 11 years, Arts-in-Corrections programs are returning to California prisons. On June 3, the California Arts Council awarded contracts to service providers to operate art programs in 14 state prisons.

The seven contracts totaling almost \$800,000 were awarded from a \$1 million commitment made by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, “to add structured, contracted Arts-in-Corrections programs in selected state prisons,” according to the Califor-

to, San Quentin State Prison, Valley State Prison – Chowchilla, Pleasant Valley State Prison – Coalinga, Kern Valley State Prison, California State Prison – Corcoran, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility – Corcoran, Salinas Valley State Prison, Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, California State Prison – Solano, California Institution for Men, California Institution for Women and California Rehabilitation Center.

The art programs will have different specialties. Some of the programs will focus on theater and dance, while others will focus on visual arts such as painting and drawing.

mation and lower recidivism rates while saving taxpayers money.”

Robbins has the backing of studies to validate his statements. Most notably, the CDC Arts-in-Corrections recidivism study of 1980-87 states, “Six months after parole, Arts-in-Corrections participants show an 88 percent rate of favorable outcome as compared to the 72.25% of all CDC releases (in 1980-85). For the one-year period, the Arts-in-Corrections favorable rate was 74.2 percent while that for CDC parolees was 49.6 percent. Two years after their release, 69.2 percent of the Arts-in-Corrections parolees retained their favorable status in contrast to the 42 percent level for all releases.”

Another study titled “California Prison Arts: A Quantitative Evaluation,” by Larry Brewster, Ph.D., states, “Many participants self-reported a reduction in disciplinary reports while involved in the art classes, and 61 percent of those who were in the Arts-in-Corrections program for five or more years reported improved behavior.”

The William James Association has been providing art programs in California facilities since 1977, when it started the Prisons Art Project inside California Medical Facility.

According to the William James Association, “After a three-year pilot funded by various grants and donations, the California Department of Corrections adopted the program, which developed into Arts-in-Corrections, which grew to be statewide in California’s state prisons.”

By 2003, the state had cut funding to the program and eliminated contracts for local artists to provide services. Arts-in-Corrections still survived in a limited capacity in some prisons up to 2010. That is the year the Institutional Artist Facilitator position was eliminated from the state budget. Thanks to the efforts of staff and community volunteers, numerous arts programs continued to be



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Brew Fowler carefully outlines the water on his creation

offered in state prisons.

The William James Association continued to provide services at San Quentin through private funding, but in most other prisons in the state art programs disappeared.

The new funding for Arts-in-Corrections provides much needed monetary support for the few service providers that operated on shoestring budgets to continue art programs in

program has given me a voice to express myself in an environment that normally limits the voice of prisoners. Block printing allows me to put into an image an idea or thought I am trying to convey. It has changed my future as to allow me to keep expressing myself and brought a closer connection to my wife, who also does block prints for a living.”

Forging connections with



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Creative artists hard at work in Arts-in-Corrections

nia Arts Council. CDCR has committed another \$1.5 million to the project for next year.

The seven service providers that were awarded contracts are The Actors’ Gang, \$112,000; Alliance for California Traditional Arts, \$90,621; Dance Kaiso, \$30,900; Marin Shakespeare Company, \$51,671; Muckenthaler Cultural Center, \$44,605; Silicon Valley Creates, \$30,060; and the William James Association, \$468,764.

The new Arts-in-Corrections pilot programs will be established in the following prisons: Pelican Bay State Prison, California State Prison - Sacramen-

The Actors’ Gang is under the leadership of actor and Artistic Director Tim Robbins, and for the past eight years, it has provided theater programs in multiple Southern California prisons through private donations.

According to the California Arts Council, Robbins said, “The Actors’ Gang Prison Project is overjoyed to be a recipient of the newly reinstated state funding for Arts-in-Corrections. We are grateful that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has recognized the deep value of the work we are doing to facilitate transfor-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Devin Chandler intensely working on his piece

state prisons.

CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard acknowledges, “Structured arts programs have proven results. Not only are inmates channeling their energy into constructive, creative projects, they are also learning new skills and expressing themselves in positive ways.”

Ray Ho is an example of what art programs can do for prisoners. “The Arts-in-Corrections

family can be difficult while incarcerated for some prisoners, and Ho sees the change art has brought to his life. “Art brings a positive element into my life going forward as I learn more about art and myself as a person. My future is bright with so many possibilities; I just have to decide when I want to step on the field.”

Ho returns as a citizen in September to Orange County.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The block printing instructor Katya McCulloch and her class



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Josh Locke showing off his skills with the paintbrush



Health Fair Returns to San Quentin



Continued from Page 1

makes it possible. "I was the Public Health Director when we started with Gary Mendez," Perkins said. "Then we decided ... we wanted



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Nurse doing a blood pressure check for one inmate

to make sure the men in prison had health resources. We felt that having a healthy mind, body and spirit was really important to the rehabilitation of the men."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dental assistance explains the importance of brushing

Perkins said former Warden Robert Ayers was the person who set this in place. He said Ayers wanted them to come in and work with the men. "He wanted us to instill in the men



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Volunteers doing a hearing test for inmates in the Arc Trailer

that they deserve to be healthy, and they deserve to be informed on how to maintain their healthy state," Perkins said.

The day before the Health Fair, TRUST held an orientation to provide instruction on what

tary. "You are all hope dealers."

For some medical volunteers, the Health Fair was their first time they had visited San Quentin or the inside of any prison.

At 10 a.m. it was show time, and all of the volunteers worked tirelessly to provide inmates with healthcare services and information.

"I'm excited. These fairs are beneficial. They have my support," said Associate Warden Steve Albritton. He was curious to know if inmates discovered something about themselves that they did not know previously, such as if they have high blood pressure.

Inmates waited in several lines on the Lower Yard to receive services. Inmates received acupuncture and chiropractic services in the prison's gymnasium, as well as yoga lessons. There were also University of California San Francisco (UCSF) resident physicians who answered questions.

"I am so fortunate every time I come to San Quentin," said Sachi Doctor, a volunteer who also works with The Last Mile program. "The opportunity and time to practice yoga (with prisoners) given the conditions justifies their desire to grow and transform. There are so many forms of exercise, but I love the personal transformation I find in yoga. I wanted to take transformation to next level."

"It's an inspiration to come through and see how nervous prisoners are until they try it," said Gibrion McDonald, a volunteer yoga instructor. "Sometimes we think we are not worthy of medicine. Yoga is medicine. It's a blessing; there's healing that takes place here."

Dr. Triveni Defries, a UCSF resident physician, said she has been to San Quentin before, but never to a Health Fair. "It seems to be very well-organized. We're here to answer any medical questions" on subjects such as breathing problems, skin infections, heart attacks, strokes, Hepatitis C, depression and diabetes. "We're willing to talk about whatever anyone wants to talk about," she said.

Dr. Emily Wistar, another UCSF resident physician, said she is in a program in San Francisco to provide primary care to underserved communities. "I think it's a good resource for us to work with you guys," Wistar said.

"I thought it would be much more boring," said Dr. Asa Clemenzi of UCSF. "I thought it was nice to just answer people's questions about health. It's an opportunity to pass on some knowledge."

"Trust me, you'll be fine," said Dr. Fred Githler, who has been a chiropractor for more than 20 years. He has his own private practice and attended the Health Fair for the fourth time. He said he heard about it through Life West Chiropractic College. "Each year it gets bigger. Any volunteer work is enlightening."

Dirk Schlueter, who works in acupuncture for the American



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Chiropractor Fred Githler working diligently

College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) in San Francisco, demonstrated the manipulation of vaccaria seeds on different points of the ear. When pressing the seed on the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Mildred Crear working in the ARC building

ear, it stimulates an acupuncture point.

"This is the first time we are here, so we are pretty excited," said Schlueter. "We try to find certain combinations that are right for you guys," said Schlueter.

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Dirk Schlueter, who works in acupuncture for the American

eter. Erin Reilly works with parolees from San Quentin and Pelican Bay State Prisons at Options Detox in Berkeley. "It's still early," Reilly said. "We're looking forward to helping people."

"Overall it's very positive, very progressive," said Shaka Muhammad, who is an IDAP (Inmate Disability Assistant Program) worker. "It gives guys insight on health. They should probably have information on the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)."

Safia Quinn volunteered her services as a notary to certify the medical forms the men signed for advance directives. This was her first San Quentin Health Fair. She said she has volunteered at similar events in Oakland and Hayward. "I think it's very beneficial. It's definitely a treat," she said.

"This is my third one," said inmate Douglass Manns. "It's a larger crowd from when I first started. He said the general population has grown over the years at the prison because of the addition of inmates to West Block."

Redwood Dental Hygienists Society (RDHS), a component of the California Dental Hygienists Association, attended the Health Fair to give inmates



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Alameda County Hospice Volunteers Marilyn Abadio and Notary Safia Quinn



Photo by Sam Hearnes

One inmate is concentrating on his finger after being pricked by a needle

demonstrations on how to properly brush and floss their teeth. They also answered questions on oral hygiene.

"It seems like they're improving on the whole way they've stepped up," said Laura Bir-

RDHS, said, "I'm thoroughly enjoying my time. I enjoy getting to know you guys."

"They were open to receiving our pamphlets," said Ashley Malone of Center Force. "A lot of people were interested in our



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates lined up to get health information from Centerforce volunteers

chett, a hygienist with RDHS who participated at the fair last year. "I think it's wonderful that they bring this to San Quentin and that the inmates are so involved in putting this together,"

Jessica Wong, a hygienist with

peer health class."

Inside the ARC (Addiction Recovery Center) trailer, volunteers offered readings for blood pressure, glucose levels, cholesterol levels, vision and hearing testing.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Centerforce volunteers Ashley Malone and Daniel Perez

Inmate Todd Jones was getting his blood pressure checked in the ARC trailer. "Last year I only went to the gym. I didn't come in here." Jones said he visited the acupuncture area earlier. "I've never done it before. It's interesting. I think it's better than medication. It's natural."

"It moved a lot quicker than it did last year. I think it's great," said inmate John Ray Ervin. "It's a different experience, something I never experienced on the street. It teaches you a lot about your body. He said he learned 'our bodies are beat up.'"

Dr. Bill Bolinger, an independent chiropractor and health fair volunteer, said it was his first health fair at San Quentin. "I think we should be here every month. It's great that they do this at least once a year."

"I get more from what I do," said Bolinger, who has done mission work in Vietnam and Mexico and planned to do the same at a Native American reservation in New Mexico a week later.

Dr. Tammi Clark, a volunteer chiropractor, said the spine and nervous system work together,

and bring homicide rates down in the Bay Area by educating black men about who they are.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Chris Deragon getting his blood pressure checked by a volunteer

and that sometimes restricted joints become painful. "Often you see benefits when restrictions are released. We restore mobility so they (joints) can move better."

"It's about optimizing health," said Clark. "The spine is made up of so many bones that when they're off, other parts of the body compensate. If they spent as much time with flexibility (stretching) as building bulky muscles, they'd be in better shape."

"Today is going smoother than any other Health Fair," said Tyrone "T-Bone" Allen, an inmate and founding member of TRUST.

According to Allen, in 2003 Jerry Brown, who was then mayor of Oakland, commented on how Oakland had become a dumping ground for San Quentin. It was at that time San Quentin Warden Jeanne Woodford decided she

would help to make changes. She created programs with the help of Dr. Gary Mendez and Li Vernell Crittendon.

Allen said Woodford helped to form TRUST. Its goal was to Teach Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST).

Allen said TRUST "started working with these guys to build bridges back to the community."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Alameda County Public Health Volunteer Janetta M.

and Chavez joined with TRUST to organize the Health Fair during Black History Month in 2003. "Today, this project has evolved into an all-inclusive health fair for all groups, not just African-[Americans]," said Allen.

Phoenix You, Emile DeWeaver, Richard "Bonaru" Richardson and Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

Arts & Entertainment



Photo by P. Jo

Avenue of the Giants



Snippets

From December 26-27, 1999, there were 270,000,000 trees destroyed by storms in France.

At least one tree can produce enough oxygen in one season for ten people to inhale for a year.

Losing a football game is not as important as losing a rainforest as big as a football field every second.

Landing in Berkeley Hundred, a tobacco plantation near Jamestown, Va., was 38 men who held a Thanksgiving Day Celebration almost a year before pilgrims settled on Plymouth Rock.

To Support Special Olympics
Please go to www.sonc.org

Sudoku Corner

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Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

5	6	3	7	8	1	4	9	2
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7	2	8	1	5	6	9	4	3
9	8	7	6	1	2	3	5	4
6	3	5	4	9	8	2	7	1
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9	4	6	7	8	1	2	3	5
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4	5	1	6	7	8	3	9	2
2	9	8	5	3	4	7	6	1
3	6	7	1	2	9	5	8	4



File Photo

Sgt. C. Siino, Gold Medalist Stephanie Hammond and Ruth Sanchez standing in front of Tower 1

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Generation We Expresses Concerns About our Future

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Occasionally a book comes along under the radar and eases into publication with little fanfare, even though it has the potential to take an entire nation from good to great. In writing *Generation We*, Eric Greenberg acknowledged that the Millennial Youth, those born between 1978 and 2000, are the next generation. They are being left with “a world that may be headed down a catastrophic path, unless we start making smarter choices — and soon. You don’t have to look hard to find the bad news,” Greenberg writes. “It’s everywhere — on the TV networks and the cable channels, on the radio talk shows, in our local newspapers, in every magazine, and all over the internet.”

Greenberg’s *Generation We* isn’t revolutionary, nor is it radical. In fact, it takes some of the same concepts that Jim Collins wrote for businesses in *Good to Great* more than a dozen years ago. It applies them to a social paradigm designed to correct multiple dif-

ficulties, such as environmental problems, health concerns, a failing education system, economic concerns, creeping totalitarianism and a world ravaged by war.

The message in *Generation We* is loaded with practical advice, giving it an air of legitimacy, for serious-minded folks who want to do something tangible and realistic to change not only how Americans treat each other, but also how we as a nation interact with the rest of the world.

“I came to understand that we are all connected, as a species and as a planet,” Greenberg writes. “We are all related, genetically proven to be descendants of a single ancestral woman who lived in Africa some 140,000 years ago.”

While *Good to Great* strives to motivate its readers to “combine a culture of discipline with an ethic of entrepreneurship,” and “to think differently about the role of technology,” Greenberg sharpens Collins’ idea by recognizing the importance that *Generation We* is always connected and wielding technology to change the world.”

“Americans must use the power of technology for a global spread of knowledge and to bring environmental awareness with holistic thinking to solve many of these problems,” Greenberg writes.

“I came to understand that we are all connected, as a species and as a planet”

Instilled into *Generation We* is an inspiring hopefulness as Greenberg leaves readers with confidence that “Millennials represent a brand-new America, transformed by demographic and cultural trends. American Millennials share a remarkable number of personal and attitudinal traits regardless of geographic, gender, religious, and ethnic differences.” They “are smart and tech-driven, optimistic, socially responsible and active, innovatively minded,

BOOK REVIEW

highly politically engaged, center-left, open-minded and tolerant, pro-environment, globally connected, and believe that government can do well.”

Even though *Generation We* paints a rosy picture, Greenberg recognizes cynicism.

“Many of those reading these pages are already immersed in doubt and despair,” Greenberg writes.

“They’re ready to dismiss the vision we’re trying to evoke by calling it ‘naïve, unrealistic, or utopian.’ They’re eager to deny the potential for greatness contained in *Generation We* and to condemn today’s youth to living out their lives in the same quagmire of quiet desperation their parents have experienced. The emergence of *Generation We* as a powerful voting bloc supporting progressive causes and candidates isn’t happening by accident or purely as a result of broad social trends. It is also being spurred by a generation of activists, mostly themselves of millennial age, who are building political organizations to educate, empower, and mobilize young people over the long term. *Generation We* uses film to spur international

activism, social entrepreneurship to make homes affordable, collaborating to create the automobile of the future, and to shake up politics.”

Greenberg would have been remiss if he did not recognize what is happening inside America’s prisons.

“*Generation We* will be the ones to transform our prisons out of a system in which 2.3 million Americans — more than one in 100, many of them with nonviolent offenses, such as drug abuse, for which therapeutic and remedial care would be far more effective and humane. Racial disparities are enormous: If you’re a Hispanic male, your chance of being in prison is 2.2 times greater than of a white male, and if you’re a black male, your chance is almost six times as great.”

Bottom line, Greenberg says: “Vote — and insist that everyone gets the same right to vote. Hold our leaders accountable. Get educated. Connect the dots. Exercise your clout. Make your message visible, audible, and impossible to ignore. Practice consumer power. Push for change in your own sphere of influence. Get organized.”

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

Capitalism and the Value of Humanity

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

Is everything in life to be measured by its dollar value? That’s a question that arose in the following conversation I had recently with a young man on the Lower Yard.

One morning he walked over to me, shook his head and shared his story. Following is the gist of what was said:

“Look OG, I picked up this lady friend in my car and took her to this club. Later, we went and got something to eat at this nice restaurant. We seemed to be hitting it off real well. After doing all that, I was ready to take her to this motel.”

I asked, “So what happened?”

“That b----,” he snapped, “had the nerve to tell me she wanted to go home. I spent my money and time on her, and she wants me to take her home? Now you know that ain’t right. So you tell me, OG, if a girl decides to go out with you, and you spend your

money on her, then she’s got to give up something, right?”

I asked, “So what did you do?”

“I put that b---- out my car.”

I stood there for a few minutes, wanting to be clear about his argument as well as his attitude. I’m always careful not to respond too quickly or in a tone that might be perceived as preachy. I allowed him to make his point.

Later that evening, while sitting in my cell, I found myself thinking about what he had said, and how common his attitude is among many of our young people.

Regardless of where we might think our basic assumptions about women come from, it is safe to assume that we were not born with them. These ideas do not fall from the sky, nor do they emerge in a vacuum. The fact is that we live, breathe and function in a capitalist society. And capitalism reduces relationships and parts of relationships into commodities — things to buy

and sell. One basic and compelling assumption of capitalism is ROI, “Return On Investment.” In other words, in this social reality, the assumption is, “You don’t give or get something for nothing... Everybody and everything has a price.”

“Women often feel pressured to accept and participate in their own exploitation”

This fundamental value not only operates in the economic and political realm of our lives, it penetrates and impacts every aspect of our social relationships. This capitalist value is deeply embedded in our society and informs our interactions with each other. Thus, it’s completely logical

for us to assume and argue, “If we pay for something, we should own it!”

Now I’m not suggesting that disrespect of women comes exclusively from capitalism. In fact, we would be hard-pressed to find a world or economy where women are treated as equals. However, I do believe capitalism promotes objectification and gives a paradigm for the kind of exploitation that this young man was talking about.

In such a context, parents groom their daughters to look for men with money, someone who will “take care” of them. Too often, sex is exchanged for economic security and re-named marriage. The young man who spent his money on the young woman felt that her body was an entitlement, a return on his investment — part of the “deal.” When money and material consideration form the basis of a relationship, it increases the sense of human alienation and dependency. It undermines the possibility of building quality relationships.

The sad and tragic thing about this relationship is that this value is so engrained in the fabric of our culture that women often feel pressured to accept and participate in

their own exploitation. They buy into the assumptions and find themselves collaborating with their own objectification. The important thing to understand and remember, however, is that this relationship demeans and damages everyone, not only its direct victims.

Although I have articulated the problem from an OG’s perspective, the crucial question remains: How can we begin to imagine a more egalitarian and mutually beneficial relationship, one that is not motivated and measured by the value we place on money (ROI), but by the mutual value we place on each other’s humanity? If we believe that women have the same human worth as men, then we have to believe that they are deserving of the same human respect and entitled to the same human rights.

Perhaps I should have said to the young man in the Lower Yard:

What if it were your grandmother, mother, sister or daughter being degraded and disrespected in such a manner? What would a society and world look like where women are genuinely empowered, valued and respected? What is your responsibility as a man to speak out against this longstanding oppression of women? Just as advocacy against racism should not only be the work of victims of racism, so should advocacy against sexism not only be the work of victims of sexism.

If you have thoughts or ideas on this, please send them to:

OG Column
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MOVIE REVIEW

Connecting Movies and Prisoners’ Points of View

By SQ Reviews

SQ Reviews is introducing some perspectives on movies that modern media often

neglects—the viewpoints of some men in blue.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows will be our first review, and we have some choice

things to say about Professor Moriarty whom critics describe as the greatest criminal mastermind of 19th century England.

Making a Difference In Juvenile Justice



Photo courtesy of <http://ellabakercenter.org/about/staff-and-board/zachary-norris>

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Zachary Norris is working to make a difference with prison reform and the juvenile justice system in Oakland, after his own brush with the law 12 years ago.

Norris, 36, is the Ella Baker Center's (EBC) new executive director. The center works to advance economic and racial justice for low-income and people of color.

"I just don't think what we've done over the past 40 years has actually made communities safer," said Norris. He said he wanted his work to move past research "into the realm of tangible change."

"He really (understands) that the system is supposed to be helping kids and families to move forward in their lives," said Sue Burrell, staff attorney for the Youth Law Center.

One of Norris' early tasks was to take families that have members in the juvenile justice system and build a statewide network..

"The goal was to create a unified voice against the juvenile justice system from those that had actually experienced its failure..," the *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange* (JJIE) reported.

This work became a key component to the founding of the EBC's Books Not Bars program, which favors shifting funds from incarceration toward rehabilitation programs.

Norris' work was the first of its kind to bring family members into the equation, said Burrell. "Before that, it was all advocates and agency people."

"With allies we've been

successful, but it's not by any means over," said Norris. "Part of how I came to look at how families are treated by justice systems is partly through my own family's experience and partly through the work we did with Books Not Bars."

According to the JJIE, Norris is planning three strategies that will promote community safety on a local, state and nationwide level.

Locally the EBC is in the process of creating a justice hub in Alameda County to assist families navigating through the justice system. It is seeking state legislation that will provide resources for support programs, instead of locking people up. Nationally it is working with Justice for Families and other organizations to develop a "community-driven research project" that will focus on the "multi-generational impact of incarceration on families, from an economic and public health standpoint," the JJIE reported.

In 2001, Norris was arrested for an act of civil disobedience when he became involved with a protest against the building of a new detention center.

"I had this sense it was all too normal, too normalized," said Norris.

Three years later, in 2004, Norris came out of the New York University School of Law.

"We have a punishment-based economy that enshrines social exclusion across generations and we need a more supportive economy that helps people do well," said Norris.

For more information go to <http://ellabakercenter.org/about/staff-and-board/zachary-norris>



Photo courtesy of <http://ellabakercenter.org/about/staff-and-board/zachary-norris>

Zachary Norris at the Ella Baker Center

Health & Wellness

By K. Himmelberger
Staff Writer

When you think of prison, thoughts of listless inmates wasting away in cells come to mind. However, wellness is alive in a most unusual place: San Quentin State Prison. According to an informal survey, 75 percent of prisoners in the prison's West Block participated in some form of wellness activity.

The survey revealed that 37 percent walked three miles or more per week. Thirty-five percent of the participants did pushups, 30 percent meditated and 25 percent did bar work. Eleven people did yoga at least once a week, and four participated in Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Wellness is defined as a person's overall well-being. It is a balance of mind, body and spirit. Retroflection, which is also known as meditation, is the observation of the self, a technique Daoists use to accomplish balance. It is called "returning the light." Daoists turn the light of their awareness back upon themselves, watching their own watching and observing their observations.

Once viewed from within, Daoists can separate themselves from their issues simply by letting go of them. Daoists calm the mind in meditation through deliberate forgetting and relaxation, says Daoist teacher He Feng Dao Shi.

Qi Gong and Tai Chi are meditation and relaxation techniques used by the Chinese as traditional medicine for at least 4,000 years.

Like Qi Gong, other ancient Chinese internal healing techniques can be described as "a way for working with life energy. It may be practiced daily with the aim of health maintenance and disease prevention," says Dr. Harry Croft.

Internal healing techniques are intended to be harmonious with the natural rhythms of time and season. They are based on the concept of Yin and Yang, which involves meditating, cleaning, strengthening/recharging, circulating and dispersing Qi.

According to Dr. Ryan Abbott, evidence from randomized controlled trials suggests that Tai Chi and Qi Gong improve physical and mental well-being. Studies show:

Severe knee osteoarthritis pain was reduced and mood and physical functioning improved more than with standard stretching exercises.

Quality of life and the functioning capacity of women with breast cancer improved, while it declined in control groups that only received supportive therapy.

Parkinson's disease and stroke patients showed an improvement in balance and ability to walk. Blood level of B-type natriuretic protein, an indicator of heart failure, also improved.

Duration and quality of sleep significantly improved.

Brain volume increased, memory and thinking scores improved.

According to the San Quentin Medical Department, there has been an increase in problems with high blood pressure, chronic pain and obesity. If used consistently, Qi Gong and Tai Chi could answer and improve the physical and mental health of many prisoners, the department says.

According to Abbott, "Mind-body practices tend to be less costly and cause fewer side effects, and they can enhance the effectiveness of prescription drugs to reduce the necessary doses."

SoVoSo Entertain Prisoners in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

The nationally touring acappella ensemble SoVoSo brought its unique improvisational style to San Quentin's Catholic Chapel on Sunday, June 22.

The group's name is a derivative of "from the Soul to Voice to Song." They describe themselves as vocalists who "imitate musical instruments." Group members: drums (Dave), bass (Brian), lead guitar (Zoe), rhythm guitar (Sunshine) and horns (Vernon and Ashlyn).

The concert was a two-hour celebration of the human voice. SoVoSo's diverse mix of vocal rhythms smoothly blended together jazz, gospel, world and rhythm and blues.

The ensemble, which hails from the East Bay, has performed together since 1987. Several members also perform with other groups. Dave has toured with Bobby McFerrin for the last 12 years and Ashlyn has performed with Oakland native and funk impresario Larry Graham of Graham Central Station for the last five years. The group was hosted at San Quentin by Lisa Starbird of Bread and Roses, which has been bringing musical acts to entertain the incarcerated for more than 40 years.

SoVoSo's soulful harmonizing offered something musical for everyone in attendance. The ensemble sang original compositions, as well as the gospel classic "Down by the River" and a stirring rendition of the 23rd Psalm. The group's

de facto leader, Dave, put on an impressive display of beatboxing, demonstrating how he vocally replicated the components of a complete drum set.

Inmates were encouraged to participate in a call-and-response sing-a-long and an open question-and-answer period. One questioner asked if the ensemble had ever auditioned for the popular television show "The Sing Off," an acappella singing competition.

"Sure we did," said Zoe. "But we were told we were too old. However, the consolation for us is that we've performed with the Bay Area youth singing group who came in second place on the program last season. The show's opened a few doors for them and we helped make that happen," she said, laughing.

California Supreme Court Rules On Multiple Strikes Convictions

Continued from Page 1

The court clarified multiple strikes out of a single prior conviction. In the 1998 case *People v. Benson*, the court ruled that a person who commits additional violence in the course of a serious felony, e.g., shooting or pistol-whipping a victim during a robbery or assaulting a victim during a burglary, should be given mul-

tiple strikes as opposed to an individual who committed the same initial felony but did not commit additional violence.

"But where, as here, an offender committed but a single act, we disagree she poses a greater risk to society merely because the Legislature has chosen to criminalize the act in different ways. The Legislature is free to criminalize an act in multiple ways, but that

it has done so does not of itself make an offender more blameworthy, or more dangerous, within the meaning of the Three Strikes law," the court ruled.

The court found that since Vargas' priors were multiple criminal convictions stemming from the same set of facts during the commission of a single act, they count as one strike.

—By Juan Haines

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Gov. Brown’s Appeal

The State Must Check on the Welfare of Every Disabled Parolee Sent to County Jail

By Nelson Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by Gov. Jerry Brown of a lower court’s order that the state is responsible for monitoring the care of approximately 2,000 disabled prisoners being held in county jails under Realignment.

The high court declined to comment when it refused in June to hear the state’s appeal asserting that the order “violates fundamental federalism principles” by making the state responsible for the mistakes of local officials. Brown and California Attorney General Kamala Harris had asked the high court to compel the 9th Circuit Court

to review a District Court’s order that the state was responsible for state inmates and parolees sent to county jails under a state program that changed how the state housed low-level convicted felons. Realignment requires counties to retain low-level offenders rather than sending them to state prison. That was in response to the Supreme Court

siding in 2011 with federal judges who determined that California’s prison system was dangerously overcrowded and ordered the state to reduce its prison population. The Realignment legislation stated that those inmates shifted back to the county jails were the “sole legal custody” of county officials. However, U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken ruled that the state must check on the welfare of every disabled parolee sent to county jail and is responsible to ensure that they are appropriately accommodated. This ruling was appealed by the state to the 9th Circuit. But in 2013, federal Judge

Stephen Reinhardt ruled that the state could not abrogate its responsibilities for disabled inmates who had been under state custody prior to being sent to the county jails, and were legally responsible to ensure that those prisoners were given “reasonable accommodations” entitled to them under the Americans With Disabilities Act, even if they are held in county jails. “These accommodations include the basic necessities of life for disabled prisoners and parolees,” stated Reinhardt in his ruling upholding the lower court decision. “The state is not absolved of all of its responsibilities for ADA obligations as to the parolees.”

Federal Judge Rules in Favor Of Immigration Bail Hearings

Immigration officials have illegally denied bail hearings to hundreds of immigrants, a federal judge has ruled. U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ruled in May that the government must allow bail hearings for some immigrants who have been released from prison.

FEDERAL LAW
Judge Rodgers ruled the U.S. Immigration and Customs Service (ICE) misused a 1996 federal law that authorized ICE to detain immigrants and deny them bail for up to six months after the immigrant is released from state custody following a conviction for a deportable crime. Some of the immigrants were in the U.S.

legally, then arrested, in some cases years after their release from state custody.
DETAIN
The judge ruled ICE must detain the person in question immediately upon their release from state custody if it is allowed to deny a bail hearing. Gonzalez Rogers ordered ICE to bring those immigrants affected immediately before an immigration judge so they may argue that they are not a threat to public safety and should be granted bail while they fight extradition. “The court rightly acknowledged that not even the government is above the law,” Stacy Chen, one of the immigrants’ attorneys in the class-action

lawsuit, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “(The government) cannot deny bond hearings to individuals who are plainly entitled to them.”
CONVICTION
Immigrants convicted of a felony can face deportation after being released from state custody, if that crime is considered serious or violent under federal statutes. The government estimated 200 to 300 persons could be affected. Jenny Zhao of the American Civil Liberties Union said the ruling could affect many more. She reported similar lawsuits have been filed in Massachusetts and Washington state.
—By Nelson T. Butler

Report Show Inmates Being Denied Release Due to Monthly \$400 Cost of Ankle Bracelet

‘People with money get to go home’

By Rudy Morales
Journalism Guild Writer

Some people are denied release from jail with an ankle bracelet because they can’t afford the \$400 a month cost, NPR.com reports. Every state except Hawaii, plus the District of Columbia, allows or requires the person wearing an ankle bracelet to pay the cost, an NPR survey found. “Sometimes that means people with money get to go home, while those without go to jail,” the NPR story reported. The story cites the case of Tom Barrett, an Augusta, Ga., man who stole a can of beer in a convenience store in 2012. He was sentenced to 12

months of probation and could be released provided he wears an ankle bracelet.
“Fees to wear such a device include a \$12 daily fee, \$50 set-up fee and \$39 monthly fee”
He couldn’t pay the approximately \$400 a month cost, so was ordered back to jail. Superior Court Judge Daniel Craig later released him without the ankle device. Craig later expanded his ruling to put a tem-

porary stop to forcing people to pay for ankle bracelets. The state Supreme Court is scheduled to take up the case later this year. In the states surveyed, state legislators passed the cost to a person who would otherwise go to jail if they did not pay. The fees to wear such a device include a \$12 daily fee, \$50 set-up fee and \$39 monthly fee to a private probation company. Barrett receives food stamps and sells his plasma to pay the rent. “Most courts use sliding-scale fees, based on how much the offender can pay. Or, the company (that provides the devices) tells them how to find grant money to help poor people pay for the monitors,” NPR reported.

Study Reveals More Prisoners Applied for Clemency Under New Government Guidelines

More than 3,300 federal prisoners have applied for clemency under new government guidelines announced in April. That is almost five times the 702 who applied during the same period last year, *The Associated Press* reports.
CLEMENCY
The U.S. Justice Department has changed its regulations to increase the number

of federal prisoners eligible to apply for clemency and early release. This is an effort to ease the rigid sentencing policies that were first introduced in the 1980s and 1990s. Deputy Attorney General James Cole, who announced the new regulations, said many more inmates would be eligible to apply, but most likely only a small percentage would make it through the process before President

Obama leaves office in 2017.
NEW POLICY
The new policy would allow prisoners convicted of nonviolent crimes to apply for clemency if they have served 10 years or more in prison and would have received lesser sentences if convicted under today’s laws. “Older, stringent punishments that are out of line with sentences imposed under to-

day’s laws erode people’s confidence in our criminal justice system,” Cole said during a press conference reported by *The New York Times*. “I am confident that this initiative will go far to promote the most fundamental of American ideals, (that of) equal justice under law.” Attorney General Eric Holder has stated that the disparity in sentences is a civil rights issue and has advocated for

changes in sentencing structures.
DEFENSE LAWYERS
According to The Clemency Project 2014, a coalition of defense lawyer groups and other organizations, “more than 20,000 federal prisoners have returned surveys seeking to have legal representation during the clemency process,” *The AP* reported.
—By Nelson T. Butler

Pew: The Cost of Survival In America Has Increased

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Poor Americans have access to nearly as many tangible goods as the rich, but the cost to survive in America has increased, with food, vehicles, child/health care and college topping the list, according to Pew Research Center. “In 21st century America, it’s entirely possible for poor people to have much of the same material comforts – cars, TVs, computers, smartphones – as more affluent people, yet be trapped in low-paying jobs with little prospect of improvement,” Pew writer Drew DeSilver reported.

The report outlines how prices for manufactured goods have plunged, making it possible for many Americans to afford products once considered luxury items, even as wages remain stagnant for workers. It is, however, a steep move up the socioeconomic ladder as services such as education, child care and health care continue to rise, it was reported. These services make it possible for people to find and secure better employment. “Without a doubt, the poor are far better off than they were at the dawn of the War on Poverty,” said James Ziliak (in a *New York Times* news story), director of the University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research. However, he noted, relative to middle- and upper-income Americans, “they have also drifted further away.” According to DeSilver, the

federal minimum wage has not been enough to elevate the majority of Americans out of poverty.
“Without a doubt, the poor are far better off than they were at the dawn of the War on Poverty”

The Pew Center, for example, analyzed annual minimum-wage earnings in 2013 dollars (full-time work, 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year). It then compared it with the poverty threshold (adjusted for inflation) by household types and revealed that an annual salary of \$15,080 is below the \$16,057 that would place one adult and one child at the poverty line. When the number of adults and children increases, so does the descent further into poverty. “For decades, politicians and social scientists have argued about whether (President Lyndon) Johnson’s antipoverty programs have lifted people out of destitution, trapped them in cycles of dependency or both,” DeSilver reported. Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, DeSilver illustrates how the drop in the price of consumer goods such as electronic devices is due in large part to “an increase in quality over the past 10 years.”

The Many Gifts the Amala Foundation Provides

‘The only roadblock from connecting with your child is you’

By Gino Sevacos
Contributing Writer

One recipient from a fundraiser held on San Quentin’s Lower Yard was 13-year-old



John Windham, son
Lewis Windham and mom

Lewis Windham, son of inmate John Windham.

With more than \$10,000 raised in total, the May 25 Amala Walk for Youth received about \$600 from the men of San Quentin.

Proceeds of the fundraiser went to scholarships for youngsters like Lewis to attend peace summits.

The Amala Foundation (www.amalafoundation.org) was founded by Vanessa Stone. It represents children from more than 20 countries, with 16 languages and



File photo

Lewis Windham playing with a child at the Amala camp

various religions.

The foundation holds week-long residential summer camps in Texas and California for teenagers from around the world. The California peace summit was held July 21-27 in Foresthill and accommodated 60 young

men ages 14-18.

“This week was an incredibly powerful week for Lewis,” said Stone. “He was one of the most open, caring, kind and beautiful souls. He touched the heart of many of the youth. He was so excited to be there and it was a total gift to have him. He stood up and said to the entire group that he hadn’t ever before felt so much love and so much connection with so many different kinds of people like the love he feels within his own family.”

John talked about what it meant for having his son attend the peace summit. “I’m thankful to the Amala Foundation for giv-

ing him this experience at such a young age,” he said.

Communication between them is open and their personal experiences are always shared during the 10 years that his son has been visiting him, John said. “I was brought to tears when I read Vanessa’s words and felt so proud of my son,” adding, “The only roadblock from connecting with your child is you. Nothing can prevent you from reaching out and connecting in whatever way you are able.”



File photo

Lewis Windham and
Vanessa Stone

Asked On The Line

How Did the Annual Health Fair Benefit You?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

Fall is just around the corner and the month of September had the following national observances: Library Card Sign-Up Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month and National Biscuit Month.

Labor Day was on Sept. 1. The fall semester for Patten College began on Sept. 2. Catholics celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 11, autumn began on Sept. 23 and the Jewish community observed Rosh Hashanah at sundown on the 24th. With much activity comes a call for maintaining good health, and many of the men in blue participate in activities that help keep them in good shape.

Notably this year was the 11th annual Health Fair, put on by the San Quentin TRUST and Centerforce — in collaboration with the Alameda County Health Department, San Quentin Medical and various outside medical groups.

Centerforce and representatives of the Alameda County Health Department educated men on various health issues such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. The Bay Area Black Nurses Association and San Francisco State University nursing students administered glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure, vision and hearing screenings. Many other men were also invigorated by chiropractors from Chiropractic of Marin. Men also had an opportunity to meet with dental hygienists and staff from the San Quentin Dental Department for a workshop on good oral care.

Men in blue were asked, “In which Health Fair activities did you participate, and what did you enjoy most about the Health Fair?”

One of the most popular activities was with the chiropractors and acupressure.

Among the hundreds of men who saw a chiropractor were Duane Holt, Hieu Nguyen, Erick Nelson, Darryl Aikens, Claudius Johnson, Brijido Mariscal, Aubra McNeely, Mike Thompson, Richard Zorns, Jose Rivera, Eddie Hollingsworth, Louis Hunter, Darrell Williams and Benjie Obsuna.

“I was a helper in the acupressure station, and I enjoyed it very much”

Nguyen, McNeely, Thompson, Zorns, Rivera, Hunter and Obsuna also got some relief from pain through acupressure.

Holt said he liked everything about the Health Fair. As a TRUST alumnus, he volunteered to work with the chiropractors in the gym.

Nguyen said, “I got what I came for, and I’m happy. Everything about the Health Fair was great! I got to spread the news to outside people that we are human just like everyone else.”

Aikens enjoyed the camaraderie and the education he got from the Health Fair booths in the education area.

“I enjoyed the professional atmosphere that was conveyed,” Johnson said. He also got screened by the nursing students and participated in the dental workshop.

Mariscal said he enjoyed getting his “back cracked” by the chiropractors. He was also grateful for the toothbrush

giveaway.

McNeely is a TRUST alumnus who said, “I was a helper in the acupressure station, and I enjoyed it very much.”

Thompson said that he liked the “cheerful volunteers” the most and all of the gym activities (chiropractors, acupressure, University of California at San Francisco physicians).

Zorns said he liked “everything” about the Health Fair. “I worked in the education area, and I totally enjoyed the day.” Hollingsworth commented, “The chiropractors’ line went very, very smooth. I had a blast. I got my back cracked twice.”

Williams said, “Things were well put together — really organized.”

Several other men just enjoyed everything about the Health Fair.

Fidel Salcedo said he like everything, especially the “set-up” of the fair.

Christopher Lewis said he enjoyed the “kindness and positive participation of everyone who volunteered.” He also liked the quiz on HIV, AIDS, hepatitis B, C and other infectious diseases.

John Neblett especially liked the camaraderie among the men. As a TRUST Fellow, he was stationed in the education area.

Kamsan Suon enjoyed learning something new. “I learned how to do qi gong and tai chi.”

George Britton liked the toothbrush and toothpaste he got from the dental station.

Lam Le liked the atmosphere. “I saw that a lot of people were really enjoying themselves. I was happy to see everybody was happy.”

One man named A.G. said, “I liked the candy and the nurses the most, and the chiropractors were awesome!”

San Quentin News

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We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

1. Chowchilla—Valley State Prison is doing its part to conserve water, according to the *Merced Sun-Star*. The facility has cut its water consumption by nearly 20 percent since January, when Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency.

2. Boise, Idaho—Corrections officials discovered claims of a medication shortage, medication overpayment and missing medical records to be overstated or without merit after taking over the running of the state's largest prison from Corrections Corporation of America in July, reports *Fox Business*.

3. Utah—The state's prison population is expected to grow by some 2,700 inmates during the next two decades, according to *The Salt Lake Tribune*. According to the most recent statistics, 46 percent of Utah inmates who leave prison are back behind bars within three years, and inmates are staying behind bars 18 percent longer — or about five months — than they were 10 years ago, the *Tribune* reports. "We're calling on the foremost experts on public safety to create a new roadmap for our criminal justice system," Gov. Gary Herbert said in a statement. "The prison gates must be a permanent exit from the system, not just a revolving door."

4. Arizona—The execution of Joseph Rudolph Wood III was marked by nearly two hours of lengthy, repeated bouts of labored breathing before he died on July 23, reports the *Wall Street Journal*. Wood was injected with 15 separate doses of a drug combination because the initial drug protocol of one dose didn't seem to be enough to kill him, according to documents released by the state Department of Corrections



to the inmate's attorney.

5. Wisconsin—A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Madison has made allegations of staff-on-inmate abuse in the segregation unit of Waupun Correctional Institution, reports the *Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel*. Twenty-eight of the 40 allegations in the report involve a single guard who is accused of "physical and psychological abuses against inmates, including knee strikes, choke holds, wall slams, racial slurs and genital touching during strip-searches," the *Sentinel* reports.

6. Ontario—A recent attempt by Canada's federal government to cut inmates' pay by 30 percent has prompted a lawsuit

by the affected inmates, reports *CBC News*. The government said the cuts would save about \$4 million of its more than \$2.6 billion annual budget.

7. Canada—This year was the 40th anniversary of Prisoners' Justice Day in Canada. The John Howard Society, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and other prisoners' advocacy groups, held events in cities across Canada in recognition of Prisoners' Justice Day on Aug. 10, reports *CBC News*.

8. Vermont—Nearly 500 of the state's inmates have been sent to privately run out-of-state facilities in Kentucky and Arizona, according to *Vermont Public Radio*. Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) operates the

private prisons. CCA's contract comes up for renewal next year. A group of concerned Vermonters, including state Rep. Suzi Wizowaty, who is director of Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, is proposing to return the prisoners to the state.

9. Philadelphia—High school students in Temple University's Urban Apps and Maps Studios Building Information Technology Skills have developed a web-based app called "Gotcha," which allows anyone to post crimes they've witnessed. The app is accessible by desktop computer or through a web browser on mobile phones.

10. Washington, D.C.—Attorney General Eric Holder is opposing the use of some statisti-

cal tools used in determining jail time, reports Massimo Calabresi of *Time* magazine. Calabresi cited Holder criticizing the use of large databases about criminals to identify dozens of risk factors associated with those who continue to commit crimes and saying this could have a disparate and adverse impact on the poor, on socially disadvantaged offenders and on minorities. Such data includes prior convictions, hostility to law enforcement and substance abuse and are used to help determine how long a convict should spend in jail. Holder said, "I'm really concerned that this could lead us back to a place we don't want to go."

11. Washington, D.C.—Nearly 10 percent of the 216,000 federal inmates receive medications designed for one of many mental illnesses. The cost for the meds in the past four years is more than \$36.5 million, according to *USA TODAY*. Nearly 20,000 federal inmates are on psychotropic medications, according to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Federal prisons are 43 percent over capacity and about 25 percent of the Justice Department budget supports the BOP's operation. In an attempt to ease overcrowding, the U.S. Sentencing Commission approved a measure that would make nearly 50,000 inmates eligible for sentence reductions

12. New South Wales—Despite dropping crime rates, New South Wales incarceration rates have increased during the past year, according to University of New South Wales Professor of Criminology Eileen Baldry. "In 2013 there were 9,900 prisoners across the state. This year there are 11,000, and this rate of increase is likely to continue," Baldry wrote.

Authors Discuss Inequalities Behind America's Mass Incarceration System

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

"Nowhere else in the democratic world, and at no other time in Western history, has there been the kind of relentless punitive spirit as been ascendant in the United States," says Todd Clear, co-author of the book *The Punishment Imperative*.

In an interview with Joe Domanick, the West Coast bureau chief of *The Crime Report*, Clear "traces the root of American prison policy to racism and the idea of going after the 'enemy'."

"It was a relentless pursuit across the country that didn't happen anywhere else, and was unprecedented in [modern, democratic] history," Clear said in the March article. Over the past four decades, the U.S. has kept good records of its incarceration numbers.

When pressed to explain this phenomenon, Clear said, "I would point to several arguments." One is these policies are based on historic racisms, "and were ignited by the racial conflicts that grew out of the Civil Rights Movement. Then, through Richard Nixon's Southern Strategy and

his law and order [presidential] campaign in '68, being tough on crime began dominating the national discourse, and the imagery was all about black men."

"Second, young, black, jobless men were a tangible target group that people thought required some new form of social control, and as Michelle Alexander pointed out in [her book] *The New Jim Crow*, mass incarceration was just another way of dealing with these expendable black people," he said.

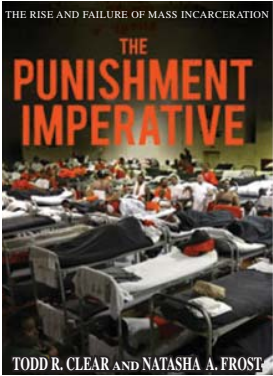
Finally, "Crime was high, people were afraid, and [they were] willing to do anything to lower crime. But they were also concerned about race, and a feeling that [society was spinning out of control.] And in that social-movement context, the tough-punishment concept became associated with being the solution," Clear explained.

He contends that a number of politicians build platforms on tough sentencing and mass incarceration campaigns. "There was no distinction between political parties." This was "a simple idea that made sense to people and became a national consensus," said Clear.

Clear denies the allegation that a community with high criminal activities feels that mass incarceration is doing it a favor. "If you remove a person from a community, you remove all of that person's activity in the community — the criminal activity that person would do theoretically, but also all of the assets that person would bring, including money, employment and parenting."

"Going to prison reduces lifetime earnings by 40 percent. If you have a neighborhood where almost all the men have gone to prison, you have a neighborhood where lifetime earnings in that neighborhood is down by 40 percent. So their children, spouses and community have less money," Clear maintains.

Domanick asked Clear to clarify how the "wars on drugs and crimes" aggravated the sentencing laws in this country. "Calling them wars meant that all the metaphors were about defeating enemies, and I think that was a very significant aspect of what was taking place. Because once you decided that you're fighting an enemy, they have no rights; they're heathens who we have to



protect ourselves from."

In addition, "what you had is a fear of crime that can be real, and at the same time a strategy to do something about that fear that has had a profound differential racial impact on people of color."

Clear goes on to say, "The point is that you can't produce a [corrections] system as large as ours by focusing just on violent crime. It would never produce [the size of] this prison population. You would have to have policies on drugs, on property crime across the board to produce this prison population."

"What about the criminal justice industry and their impact on these wars — organizations like the California Corrections Peace Officers and District Attorneys

Associations so strongly supporting and driving the crime and drug wars?" asked Domanick.

Clear replied, "They were not principled people looking at the situation and saying we regret that we have to [engage in this extreme punishment], but you know, we have no other choice. Their support was because of economic expedience. Much of this movement was a movement of greed, with lots of people making money off of it. The cost was borne by people in poor communities and people of color."

As for whether mass incarceration is ending, Clear said, "You don't see politicians proposing new expansions of their prison systems. Mayors aren't running on get-tough policies. Other claims are now being made on federal dollars."

California's great prison experiment with realignment has forced local governments to reevaluate their justice reinvestment system. Once upon a time, judges were producing the great growth in the prison system. "Now the locals are being forced to make economic, and not just political, decisions," Domanick concluded.

Clear is dean of the Rutgers University-Newark School of Criminal Justice.

Running on Empty

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

The heat began to rise early on Friday morning as the 31 runners of the 1000 Mile Club prepared to run half a marathon. The participants ranged in age from 31 to 67.

"I just want to complete it," said Jose Sandoval, 31. "This is my first time running this distance." Sandoval almost did. He ran 10.5 miles in 1:33:34.

Stretching next to him, 35-year-old veteran Chris Scull added, "This is going to be about discipline and determination. That will equal success."

The temperature climbed into the mid-90s an hour into the race. Several Muslim runners took part as well, running during the Holy Month of Ra-

madan. None of them could take in water or even salt pills.

"You must hydrate well during the night before the run," said 47-year-old Muslim runner Jerry "Malik" Gearin. "I drank 68 ounces of water and ate plenty of carbohydrates in preparation for today's jog."

Eric "Abdul Wahid" Moody, 44, ran half the distance.

"I came out to support my fellow runners. I couldn't run the whole way — not during Ramadan."

Lorenzo Hopson, 60, also known as "The Running Man," completed 10 miles.

"I've put on a little bit of weight," he said. "I feel a little heavy."

Hopson hasn't run competitively for eight months; however, he is one of the well-re-

spected runners at The Q.

San Quentin News sports editor Rahsaan Thomas, also a member of the 1000 Mile Club, took part in the half marathon while fasting during Ramadan.

"I'm OK!" he exclaimed with a smile five miles into the run. "I'm pacing myself!" Thomas finished last at 2:39:15. Fifteen other runners didn't complete the run.

After finishing the 13.2 miles, Gearin was reflective.

"You keep the remembrance of God and being free in your mind while you run. You have to know your limits, and when you've reached that, know when to stop. In 2013, I ran it in one hour and 48 minutes; this year, it's one hour and 59 minutes," he said.

Rockies Lose With Bill Lee

As the temperature slowly began to decline, and the swirling wind blew tiny dust devils across the infield of the diamond, The Rockies featured Bill "The Spaceman" Lee for their final game of the baseball season at The Q. The game ended with a win for the San Quentin Giants, 6-2.

In the bottom of the first, Jeff "Paranormal" Dumont tapped The Spaceman for a single, followed by Jose Sandoval advancing him to second, but he was tossed out at first. Then, Anthony "Tone" Sorrell connected into shallow left field that got by the outfielder, resulting in Tone getting an in-the-park homer.

"He's going to need some oxygen after that run," said one of Tone's teammates, laughing.

The Giants led after the first inning, 3-0.

The top of the first and second both ended with Paranormal getting the side out; in the third, The Spaceman re-created the magic with Chris "Captain Chris" Deragon at the plate.

With the count 2-1, The Spaceman threw a pitch so slow, it literally looked as if

it were an underhand softball pitch; the pitch had so much arc, one could have driven a mini-van beneath it. The pitch froze Captain Chris and then dropped into the strike zone.

As plate umpire, Mark Jordan yelled, "Strike!" Deragon looked at the ump and asked, "Are you serious?"

The Spaceman followed that junk with a 76 mph fastball that struck Deragon out. "Thank you; come again!" the announcer proclaimed.

In the top of the fourth, #44 Ben Cerami took the mound in relief of The Spaceman.

"I'm in the bullpen tonight for the San Rafael Pacifics," said The Spaceman. "I'll be starting Saturday on the mound in another game."

The Spaceman added, when his age was mentioned and talk about possibly slowing down, "Oh, I still have my vices. I drink tequila and still like to have a good time. However, I also swim and jog every day."

The Spaceman turned to one of the younger players on his team, saying with a wink, "You gotta have your vices."

"He keeps you guessing be-

cause he has so many weapons," said Trevor Bird, S.Q. Giant outfielder. "Even though he's up in age, you would think that he loses velocity, but a great pitcher keeps you guessing."

During the fifth inning, Steve Reichardt, assistant coach for the S.Q. Giants, brought brand-new baseballs around for all the Giants to sign to give to the visiting team.

"Any team that donates equipment, makes a donation or has come in to play and help support our baseball program gets signed baseballs at the end of the season. It's our way of saying 'Thank you,'" he said.

Before the game ended, The Spaceman moved from the mound to first base, and ended the game in right field.

In the top of the seventh, and down by four runs, the Rockies went down swinging, making contact, but couldn't get a pitch to leave the infield. The last batter hit a hot shot directly back toward Paranormal, who caught it, ending the game with a smile on his face.

—By Harun Taylor

Sports Roundup

BASEBALL

The A's lost to the Giants, 10-2, on July 10.

The Giants defeated the Benicia Brothers, 2-0, with Jeff "Dewey" Dumont on the mound for the Giants on July 12.

The Giants beat the Mission visiting baseball team, 9-3, on July 19. Mission shortstop Carter Rockwell put his team up in the first with a two-run homer. The Giants tied it up in the bottom of the inning and never looked back. Anthony Sorrell went 3-5 with three RBIs and three stolen bases for the Giants.

The A's defeated the Giants, 7-5, on July 23. "Cleo Cloman was the deciding factor. He came to play," said A's teammate Chris Marshall.

The A's beat the Giants, 9-8 on Aug. 2, making them tied 2-2 this year.

SOFTBALL

Christian Sports Ministry's softball team defeated the S.Q. Hardtimers, 8-4, with the help of their new recruits, Kyle Camp (4-4 with an in-the-park homer) and Tommy Paine (3-4 with a double) on July 20.

SOCCER

The 39 and Younger soccer team defeated the over-40 squad when D. Jassy broke a 3-3 tie by kicking the ball into his own team's goal by accident. Don Spence, Eusabio Gonzalez and Furtunato Martinez kicked in goals for the younger team. Jesus Lopez scored two goals and Tare "Cancun" Beltran one for the 40 and over.

HALF MARATHON

Eddie Herena, 31, and Sergio Carrillo, 41, finished first and second at the 1000 Mile Club 13.2-mile run. They both ran at a Local Class level, with times of 1:33:27 and 1:38:40 respectively. Jesus Sanchez, 36, came in third at 1:39:50 on July 25.

BASKETBALL

David "The Waiter" King came in with John Brewster's Outsiders and served the Warriors, 87-55, in a farewell game. "You guys are really inspirational to me. I'll be praying for you as I move to Minneapolis to take a new job with the Timberwolves organization. It's all love," King told the players at halftime. King had 24 pts, 28 rbs, 5 asts, 4 stls and 5 blks. "I wanted to have a game they'll remember me by," said King on July 12. Allan McIntosh led the Warriors with 21 pts, 7 rbs and 3 stls.

The Kings defeated the Bittermen, 82-61, on July 12. Timmy Hall notably snatched a rebound from Thad and tied up P. "Strange" Walker twice, finishing with 5 stls, 6 asts, 9 pts and 8 rbs. Cancun led the Kings with 16 pts, 2 asts, 3 stls and 1 blk.

The Green Team came, saw and conquered the Warriors, 67-65, and the Kings, 76-68, in a double-header. McIntosh led the Warriors with 19 pts, 6 rbs and a block. Chris "The Executioner" Blees led the

Green Team in both games. He had 20 pts, 12 rbs, 2 asts and 4 stls against the Warriors and 27 pts, 12 rbs, 1 asts, 5 stls and 1 blk against the Kings. Tryee McCary added 19 pts and 14 pts respectively. Thad Fleeton led the Kings with 20 pts, 7 rbs and an ast on July 19.

The Kings defeated the Outsiders, 93-48. Williams dropped a triple-double on the visitors in the July 26 contest.

INTRAMURAL LEAGUE

On July 13, The Franchise beat The Transformers 73-68. Harry "ATL" Smith led The Franchise with 17 pts, 20 rbs, 2 asts and a stl. DuPriest Brown and Larry "TY" Jones both scored 21 for The Transformers.

Net Zero improved to 8-1 with a 67-66 win over Go Get It. Michael "The Option" Franklin led Net Zero with 26 pts, 9 rbs, 2 asts and 2 stls. Erick Nelson added 17 pts, 11 rbs, 5 stls and 4 blks. McIntosh led Go Get It with 31 pts, 14 rbs and 1 ast. Antonio "Boobie" Cavitt added 20 pts, 6 rbs, 9 stls and 4 blks, but also had 11 turnovers.

The Bad News Ballers improved to 2-5 with a 68-59 win over the 76ers. Antonio Manning led the BNB with 16 pts, 3 rbs, 3 asts and 2 stls. Newcomer Terrell Threet added 13 pts, 11 rbs, 3 asts, 1 stl and a blk in his debut. Jamal Green led the 76ers with 31 pts, 19 rbs, 1 ast, 4 stls and 4 blks.

On July 20, The Transformers took first place back with a 61-56 win over Net Zero. P. "Strange" Walker led The Transformers with 16 pts, 11 rbs, 1 ast, 2 stls and 2 blks. Larry "TY" Jones added 15 pts, 1 rb, 4 stls and 2 blks. Franklin led Net Zero with 16 pts, 5 rbs and 2 asts.

Go Get It smashed Straight Ballin', 72-58, led by Maurice Gipson's 17 pts, 10 rbs and an ast. New Straight Ballin' Aoderi "AD" Samad led his team with 13 pts, 2 rbs, 1 ast, 6 stls and a blk.

The Bad News Ballers fell to The Franchise, 65-44. Kenneth Dozier led The Franchise with 12 pts, 1 rb, 2 asts and 2 stls. Marcus Cosby added 11 pts, 6 rbs, 7 asts and 1 stl.

On July 27, Straight Ballin' kept its playoff hopes alive with a 60-45 win over The Bad News Ballers. Ed Quinn and Terrell Sterling scored 16 pts each for Straight Ballin'.

On July 28, Go Get It eliminated Straight Ballin' from the playoffs with a decisive 75-37 victory. Cavitt scored 24 pts, 6 rbs, 9 asts, 4 stls and a blk. McIntosh added 22 pts, 15 rbs, 2 asts and 3 stls. Maurice Gipson contributed 16 pts, 10 rbs, 9 blks, and 2 stls for Go Get It.

On Aug. 3, The Franchise beat the Bad News Ballers, 63-52, in the playoffs' first round. Dozier led The Franchise with 15 pts. Ammons added 14.

Go Get It got the 76ers, 68-53. McIntosh led with 21 pts. Cavitt added 15.

— Rahsaan Thomas and Harun Taylor contributed to these stories

The Field of Dreams Inspires Baseball Players

By Mike Panella
Contributing Writer

A common love for the game of baseball brings teams from all over to play on San Quentin's Field of Dreams, and they leave moved by the experience. "Coming into San Quentin is a good opportunity for both sides, as we are all passionate about baseball. It gives us a different perspective of San Quentin and is a good social interaction for all involved," said Blake Burgard of the Santa Barbara Riptides. "It's exciting. Not everybody can say they played baseball in Cuba and San Quentin — it's like the forbidden fruit," said John Walker of the Los Angeles Dodger Town baseball team. "I love baseball. It's an interesting experience and a righteous experience to provide some joy for people who aren't as fortunate as we are," said Dodger Town player Stewart Sallo. "I left here last year won-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Inmates watch a game being played on the Field of Dreams

dering. 'If I had been born into the life circumstances of some of you, would I be in here?'" Burgard is the commissioner of the Santa Barbara Men's Adult League. He learned about the San Quentin Field of Dreams experience from the manager of the Santa Monica Suns. The Suns' manager has been bringing teams into the prison's Lower Yard baseball

diamond for years and raves about the experience. He assembled a team called the Riptides from position players from some of the 12 teams that play in the Santa Barbara Men's Adult Baseball League. It is part of the Men's Senior Baseball League out of New York. Similarly, Dodger Town comes up to play from Los An-

geles. Some of its players flew in from Denver, Indiana and New York. Two of them have pro experience, which made the games very competitive. The Riptides played their first game at The Q on July 26. It was a double-header against both the S.Q. Giants and Athletics. They beat the Giants, 5-0, and lost to the A's, 8-7. After losing both games against the S.Q. teams last year, Dodger Town came in with two former professional pitchers. Leon Fingold, 41, played two years in the minors for the Cleveland Indians, and he played in the Israel Baseball League. Fingold said he has thrown pitches clocked at 96 in his prime. He flew in from New York for the game. Pete C. played pro in Australia. The 24-year-old was throwing heat that made audible slaps as they hit the catcher's glove. His pitches broke two bats. In the Aug. 9 game, he pitched six innings and shut out the Giants,

6-0. Fingold got the save. San Quentin's Aaron Taylor's comical play-by-play announcing enhanced the Dodger Town vs. Giants game. "Thank you; come again," he said after each strikeout. Giants' pitchers Jeff "Dewey" Dumont gave him a run for his money in the pitchers' duel. Dumont broke up the no-hitter with a bunt. Trevor Bird also got a base hit. "I wasn't expecting you guys to be this good. Your pitcher could play on a college level. You guys are blowing my mind," said Pete C. Dumont threw 154 pitches, struck out 11 batters and did not give up any earned runs; however, seven Giants errors led to a 6-0 loss. In the second game of the double-header, Dodger Town shut out the A's, 2-0. "Our team will walk out of here with a greater appreciation for what we have in our everyday lives," said Burgard.

Green Team Beats Kings, Loses in OT to Warriors

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Brad Shells' tip-in basket sent the San Quentin Warriors into overtime, where they defeated the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team, 100-93. Green Team beat the Kings, 84-70, in the doubleheader. "Pat and I were battling for the ball, and as he pushed me, I reached up. I was in the right position to make the play," said Shells. He finished with 16 points, six rebounds, a steal and a block. The Green Team rallied from down 19 and took the lead toward the end of the fourth with great plays. Matt Richardson stole an inbound ball and passed it behind his back to Ben Ileg-

bodou for a layup. Then Richardson hit a three with 1:13 on the clock. That gave his team an 84-83 lead. Richardson had 16 points, two assists and five steals. Ilegbodou led his team with 18 points followed by Chris Blee's 17 with 11 rebounds. With 29 seconds left, the Green Team with the ball and a one-point lead, the Warriors fouled Beau Heidrich to stop the clock. He made one free throw and finished with 12 points, seven rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block. Then Warrior Anthony Ammons went to the free-throw line with 11 seconds remaining. "Let him miss at least one," said Ministry sponsor Don Smith. He missed both. Shells

hopped up and got the tip-in, tying the game at 85-85 with eight seconds left. Richardson missed a three attempt for the win, but Ilegbodou got the rebound and put it up, but it fell short as time ran out in regulation. "We had two good looks on that play," said Ilegbodou. "The team with the most heart and pride is going to win it," Warriors coach Daniel Wright told his team at the start of the OT period. The Warriors went on to outscore Ministry 15-8. Credit was given to Wright's game plan. "I put a motion offense in to give us more versatility," said Wright. Ammons was moved to point guard. "I like Ant 'cause he won't panic," said Wright. Am-

mons finished with 15 points, eight rebounds plus a steal. Donte Smith started in the place of Harry "ATL" Smith. "I changed the lineup 'cause I can't get some of my players to do what I need them to do," said Wright. H. Smith led the Warriors with 19 points, 12 rebounds, three assists, three steals and a block from off the bench. "I think the difference was our coaching. Toward the end of the game, he put a lot of trust in our players," said H. Smith. The Warriors are 2-6 against Ministry this year. Wright has taken a lot of flack for the losing record against Ministry despite the Warriors' talent. "They have to point the finger when they lose 'cause they don't want to look in the mirror," said Wright. "I've been telling them the same things all season — they just finally listened and executed."

Oris "Pep" Williams scored 12 with six assists; Larry "TV" Jones added 12 with seven steals, but it wasn't enough. They had no answer for Blee's, who led all scorers with 27 points, 14 rebounds, two assists, four steals and a block. Guard Alex Ackerman-Greenberg added 18 with four rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block. "I had to stockpile points because it might be my last trip out. I'm moving to Bristol, Conn.," said Ackerman-Greenberg. Pat Lacey did the dirty work on the boards with 18 rebounds, 12 points, three assists, three blocks and a steal. "We needed somebody to rebound; I can do that," said Lacey. "They play a crafty zone, so you have to come to play," he added. Ross Pusey coached and played, adding 13 points, five rebounds, three assists and four steals for the Green team in the doubleheader.

North Bay Bombers Rough Up the Hardtimers

To the coed North Bay Bombers, it was a win just to play softball and experience camaraderie with the San Quentin Hardtimers. The Bombers hadn't won a game in three seasons and 12 tries until Aug. 17, when they achieved an 8-7 victory over the Hardtimers. "Winning feels so much better than losing," said Lori Carter, who played second base and took three bases, including home plate, on a Hardtimers error that gave her team a 4-1 lead. "We got within five runs once before. One of these days...." said Brian Palozola during a previous game. "Today is the day we win; I feel it," said NBB player Kyle Dunlap. "We are winning today," added his teammate Brooks, during the second inning. "I think this is the game," agreed Marshall Cooper, who played first base. The Bombers were ahead 5-2 after the top of the fifth, during which Hardtimer Nghiep Ke Lam dropped a routine catch

in centerfield that led to a run. "No excuses; I just dropped the ball," said Ke Lam. However, the Hardtimers didn't go away. With no outs and two men on base, Hardtimer Antonio "Bobbie" Cavitt hit a, RBI double. DuPriest Brown followed with a double down the middle for two RBIs, tying the score. Mark Jordan brought in another run with a single and Juan Arballo knocked a shot past Chris Rudolph at third for the Hardtimers to take a 7-5 lead. At the top of the ninth, the Bombers rallied by exploiting a gap through second base. Palozola led off with a single, followed by another hit by Courtney Jackson. Joe Huang belted another that brought in Palozola. Brooks cracked a single that set up Dave McCarthy for his two RBI shot that gave his team an 8-7 lead with one out. Ke Lam closed the gap, snagging Dunlap's shot into the outfield and making a double play, ending the top of the inning. The Hardtimers' first two hits

were stopped by Huang, who made the throw outs to Cooper at first. Alias Jones was the last Hardtimers up to bat with two outs. He knocked a fly ball into the outfield that was caught by new North Bay Bomber Dunlap, for the win. "We got tired of getting our butts kicked. Last time the headline read 46-12 Hardtimers, we wanted a different headline so I recruited some friends," said NBB coach and pitcher Randy Ferino. Bomber additions Huang, Cooper, McCarthy and Dunlap all made a difference. Shortstop Huang made several throws to Cooper at first for many outs. McCarthy hit the two RBI single that gave his team the 8-7 lead, and Dunlap made the final catch of the game. "It's a great experience being out here. It's priceless and a complete privilege," said Huang after the game. "I'd like to thank Ke Lam for dropping the ball in the outfield," said Rudolph. —Rahsaan Thomas

"They won the first half of the season; the second half is ours," said H. Smith. "We're doing our thing for the Lord." "If we trust each other, we can win all day long," said Shells. The Kings remain winless against Ministry this season, losing 84-70. P. "Strange" Walker led the Kings with 14 and 11 rebounds;



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Warriors coach Daniel Wright laying out a plan

Annual S.Q. Day of Peace Celebrated

Continued from Page 1

prevention workshops and the annual Day of Peace celebration serve as alternatives to violence and thus stem the tide of violence by saturating prisons as well as society with peace,” according to committee chairman Chris Schumacher.

The committee members say they support “voices of reason in times of crisis and helping others find their voice through a commitment to peace.”

Aug. 2 served as the seventh annual Day of Peace.

“Even though this event has been postponed several times,

a stake in them.

“I visited the Richmond Project just two weeks ago. It is so good to see the men transforming themselves and learning from each other,” Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin told the Day of Peace participants. “In our society, so many people have been alienated from their core values. So when I go and see men participating in the Richmond Project, I am so inspired. Things that are happening in this prison have so much value.”

Walkenhorst’s, a California prison vendor, donated 2,500 snack bags to the Day of Peace participants.

Josh Walkenhorst, son of the

the contest, so we only made six boxes for artists to draw,” Christensen said. “But, so many people showed up last year that we ended up with 36 boxes. We left the art on the ground and it lasted about a week before it washed away.” He added, “I love art and I love just seeing the people interacting with the people from the streets.”

Pat Mahoney appraised each sidewalk artist’s work and selected the best depictions of peace.

“I chose these pieces because they say something about the subject matter; they’re creative and well-rendered,” Mahoney said



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Natalie Tovar and Josh Walkenhorst holding a plaque presented to them by the men in blue



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The Heiwa Taiko drummers, Annie Ong, Peter Yung, Virginia Ong, Kasi Chakravartula and Vera Leo

we couldn’t have picked a better day,” said Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell. “I’m glad so many of you have come out in support of the Day of Peace.”

More than 500 inmates along with nearly 150 Bay Area community members, San Quentin prison volunteers and prison staffers mingled while discussing ways to improve rehabilitative services and violence prevention programs at San Quentin.

“Peace is unsustainable if there are no institutions that promote and support nonviolence,” said Sergeant-at-Arms Edgar Salazar.

The Richmond Project is one of the many violence prevention programs. It is a group of men from different areas working collectively to improve the very communities that they took part in destroying, according to its mission statement. It encourages members to understand that they have a stake in their communities and their communities have

owner, said that last year the company sponsored a program that on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day brings together children with their incarcerated parents. After that experience he said, “I want to do more to support families. We are a family-own business. This event has a family atmosphere.”

Natalie Tovar, customer relationship manager for Walkenhorst’s, talked to inmates about how to improve services to inmates who buy their products.

“I personally read every comment card,” Tovar told the men. “I can’t respond to each one, but I read all of them.”

More than 35 artists, including Bay Area community members and volunteers, participated in a sidewalk-painting contest sponsored by Arts-in-Corrections and directed by inmate Christopher Christensen.

“Last year we didn’t know how much interest we had in

“Peace is like a love cloud. It’s when you feel something from the air, the sun and the water. The colors say everything is good. That’s where I paint from,” said first place artist Miguel Saldana, 47.

Second place went to Reginald Azbill, 31, third place winner was Omid Mokri, 50, and an honorable mention went to Chung Kao, 53.

Several bands entertained the audience, including a Hawaiian drumming group called Heiwa Taiko. “Heiwa Taiko means peace drums in Japanese,” said the lead drummer.

She said last year one of their drummers traveled to Japan, was hit by car and died. “He composed the piece we played,” she said. “The song has a lot of energy. He had quite a reputation with us.”

Lemar “Maverick” Harrison and Antwan “Banks” Williams entertained the audience with hip-hop and rap. The Jo Jo Diamond Band performed classic rock and the blues. The Native Hawaiian Dance Group performed a traditional dance. The inmate band, Contagious, performed two hip-hop songs to close the show.

Inmate Self-help Groups at Day of Peace:

Kid Cat: Creating Awareness Together The program aims to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. The group believes all youth are guided through nurturing, compassion and educational opportunities to grow and flourish into caring and productive members of their communities.

Veterans Healing Veterans From The Inside Out The program aims to bring incarcerated and free veterans together for mutual support and healing from PTSD and moral injury. Members follow a curriculum of peer-to-peer group support based on principles of narration therapy, trauma-sensitive yoga and meditation and facilitator training. These practices foster the self-awareness and behavioral change that allow returning veterans — whether from combat or prison — to make successful transitions back into society.

California Reentry Program The program brings career advice, employment, education,

housing, substance abuse treatment, child support and other help particularly needed by offenders returning to their communities.

Native Hawaiian Religious Group The group aims to build

that the person can gain an understanding into the individual trauma, damage and lifestyle choices that may have affected the individual in their development as a young person. Hope for Strikers aims to search out and give support to the healing of those emotionally and physically harmed people who turned to self-medication as a means to solve problems.

Freeman Capital The program aims to teach inmates financial literacy by creating a mock investment portfolio.

Christian Creative Writing Group This group produces short stories while using Biblical references.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The Day of Peace 1st place chalk drawing winner, Miguel Saldana

and maintain community and make its brothers’ problems their problems in order to solve them together. The group also aims to develop its community in order to restore its people to greatness through traditional song, dance, story telling and oral history.

The Last Mile The program is a model for in-prison education, preparing incarcerated individuals for professional life through a six-month program that blends entrepreneurship education with personal and professional development.

Hope for Strikers The program consists of inmates serving a minimum of 25 years to life and teaches its curriculum based on the 12-step program so

ROOTS (Restoring Our Original True Selves) This program’s goal is to help the API (Asian Pacific Islander) and other minorities connect with their cultural roots. Connecting minorities to their roots will help them become leaders of their society whether inside or out.

TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Using Sociological Training) This program teaches inmates ways to change anti-social behavior and become socially responsible citizens.

Other self-help groups at the Day of Peace: *San Quentin CARES, No More Tears, San Quentin Restorative Justice, Project LA and Criminals and Gangmembers Anonymous.*



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Niola Bucci showing off his artwork



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Day of Peace guest Herman Yee, Chris Schumacher and Clarence Long soaking up some sun rays

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
Award Winner

VOL. 2014 NO.10

October 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,978

S.Q. Warriors Upset NBA Stars

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Incredible, but true: The San Quentin Warriors defeated members of their namesake Golden State Warriors by four points, 92-88, in a hard-fought basketball game on the Lower Yard.

"You guys won the right to be called the 'Real Warriors' fair and square," said the

team's assistant general manager, Kirk Lacob.

The Sept. 26 visit attracted a crowd of some 300 inmates, guests and prison staff. It was Golden State's third game at the prison, but the first time San Quentin won. Last year Mark Jackson and Brian Scalabrine played. In 2012, Draymond Green visited and signed

See NBA on Pg. 19



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joshua "JB" Burton raising up over Kurt Lacob

S.F. Deputies Coping With Mentally Ill Inmates

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Deputies learning new skills to cope with offenders with mental health problems are among several changes underway at San Francisco's county jail, according to Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

The sheriff's department asserts that more people with severe mental illness have been winding up in jail, according to the July 2014 *City & County of San Francisco Sheriff's Department Newsletter*. Therefore, Mirkarimi said that the sheriff's department is working with mental health professionals to learn how to intervene when an inmate is having a mental breakdown.

"Our deputies must learn new skills to manage tense situations and maintain safety for inmates and staff," Mirkarimi

said in the newsletter.

Other changes:

Before offenders are released, they're enrolled in the Affordable Care Act.

The jail's commissary prices are scheduled to be reduced.

Inmate telephone costs are

lower.

"Research shows that inmates who preserve ties with their families, especially their spouses and children, have a much better chance of staying out of prison."

See San Fran. on Page 8



Photo courtesy of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department

Holding cell for mentally ill inmates



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Check to recipients of the Joint Venture/Labcon victims compensation fund

Labcon's Joint Venture Industry Gives Donation

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

In a ceremony at San Quentin State Prison, two local charitable organizations received \$32,350.91 from a victim compensation fund.

California Prison Industry Authority oversees the Joint Venture program, in which Labcon workers earn the local minimum wage of \$9 per hour.

Even though the inmates do not get all their earnings because of various deductions, including court-ordered restitution and fines, very few inmates earn the kind of money that workers for Labcon do.

The deductions after tax are:

- 20 percent of inmate income is provided to the state

for room and board

- 20 percent is allocated to the inmate's trust account for commissary and other expenses

- 20 percent goes to a family support program

- 20 percent goes to a mandatory savings account

- 20 percent goes to the victim compensation fund or court ordered restitution and fines.

Some of the inmates said they were happy to help worthy causes.

Half the money went to

Community Violence Solutions (CVS), the other half to Sunny Hills Services.

"That's great!" said Deanna Schlau of CVS, "the funds will help a lot of people." Schlau is sexual assault response and volunteer coordinator with CVS. "Our services save lives," Schlau said.

Schlau and co-worker Andrees Montilliano, executive director, participated in the ceremony to receive the funds.

See Labcon on Page 4

SHU Inmates Win Action Status

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prisoners held indefinitely in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison have been granted class action status in a lawsuit to end what some call "torture" – the result of spending a decade or longer in isolation.

In *Ashker v. Brown*, federal District Court Judge Claudia Wilken granted the inmates class action status to move forward with a lawsuit that they hope will end the use of long-term isolation in prisons in California.

"This action focuses exclusively on the conditions of confinement within the Pelican Bay SHU," said the court order granting the motion for class certification.

"We pose a fundamental question: Is it constitutional to hold someone in solitary confinement for over a decade?" asked Alexis Agathocleous, an attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

"Class certification allows the case to include all Pelican Bay SHU prisoners who have been in solitary confinement for more than 10 years, as well as all prisoners who are serving indefinite SHU terms as a result of gang validation who have not been placed in a new step-down program," reported the *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper.

"CDCR's own regulations treat this group as a distinct class and provide a straightforward framework for distinguishing between class members and non-members," court records said.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, these prisoners say they have suffered "physical and psychological abuse" after long-term confinement in isolation cells.

Bay View reported plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege that prolonged solitary confinement violates their Eighth Amendment rights — protection against cruel and unusual

See SHU on Page 5

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Jennifer Armstrong, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, Deborah Brown, PL Brown, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula, Sua Shu-Kwan Chan, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Marshall Cook, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, Simone Gabrielle Crowe, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Daniel Elber, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, George Estrada, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheilah Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman*, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngrad, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Seema Kacker, Kaitlin Kall, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Anthony Kenrick*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klopp, Dwane Kratchovil, Elise Kroeber, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Monica Lee-Griffith, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Tracy McIntosh, Andrew MacKay, David McConnell, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Wistar McLaren, Ray Menaster, Stephen Metraux, Phyllis Mileo, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgpold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, J.S. Perrella*, Paul Peterzell, John Porter, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Stephen Reitz, Galen Van Rensselaer, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarsons, J.B. Scherrer, Lucia Scott, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Utheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Peter Wagner, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Carla White, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Sharran Zeleke, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

*Have made more than one donation

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Graduate School of Journalism



BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

Couple Retires After Decades Of Performing Inside Prisons



Photo courtesy of John Eagan

Willis and Linda Rice enjoying Christmas together

By Kenneth R. Brydon
Contributing Writer

For uncoun­ted thou­sands of pris­on­ers across Amer­ica, a per­for­mance by harpist Linda Rice was a chance to listen and see some­thing com­pletely un­ex­pected, en­ter­tain­ing and in­spir­ing.

Linda is known as “The Harp Lady” in hun­dreds of pris­ons across the coun­try. Her hus­band, Willis, ac­com­panied her on con­cert trips, haul­ing her blue harp in an aging van and han­dling the sound equip­ment. She also per­formed a Christmas-time piano con­cert at the White House for Pres­i­dent George W. Bush.

The couple had per­formed close to a 1,000 times be­hind bars, touch­ing the hearts of the in­car­cer­ated at every stop. How­ever, af­ter years of per­form­ing at fed­eral and state pris­ons, Linda de­cided to re­tire.

“When we knew it was over, we just sat in our motel room and cried,” said Linda.

With­out the use of sound­tracks, or any other mus­ical ac­com­pan­iment, Linda would fuse such di­verse sounds as Led Zep­pe­lin’s “Stairway to Heaven” and Hendrix’s “Purple Haze” with tra­di­tional Gos­pel songs. At the same time, and with clar­ity, the au­di­ence could hear both tunes com­ing through.

“The harp is the most ergo­nom­i­cally in­cor­rect in­stru­ment a per­son can play,” ex­plained Willis.

In pre­pa­ra­tion for per­for­mances, Willis said Linda would prac­tice more than eight hours a day. Each per­for­mance is well-or­chestrated, Willis ex­plained. While Linda was on stage, play­ing the harp and shar­ing sto­ries be­tween songs, he would work the por­table sound­board. The au­dio en­gineer for the rock band “The Who” had put to­gether their equip­ment at the start, he said. They only needed an elec­tri­cal out­let to per­form.

The re­ac­tions have been the same at every pris­on where they per­formed, Willis said. It would be­gin with the au­di­ence sit­ting with arms crossed over chest, po­litely watch­ing and

wait­ing for the lady in the glit­ter­ing jacket to per­form. Every con­cert ended with en­thu­siastic ap­plause and re­quests for them to come back soon.

Willis was a Lieuten­ant Colonel fly­ing out of Travis Air Force Base who re­tire­d af­ter 22 years of ser­vice. He piloted enor­mous mil­i­tary trans­port jets, while Linda taught piano and harp near the base. Af­ter he traded in his wings for time with his wife, they took off out on the road.

Their first con­certs were only in churches, but while in Colo­rado, they per­formed at one of the fed­eral in­sti­tu­tions.

Per­form­ing at the first pris­on was all it took to help the couple find their call­ing of put­ting smiles on many pris­on­ers’ faces, Linda said.

During the pris­on per­for­mances, they would speak of their shared Chris­tian faith. Linda said they were often sur­prised by the re­cep­tion from in­side.

Willis’ can­cer di­ag­no­sis in

2004 nearly forced the couple to stop tour­ing. Doc­tors told them it was time to “en­joy” what time Willis had left. De­spite the can­cer di­ag­no­sis, they con­tinued per­form­ing and asked pris­on­ers to join them in pray­er for his heal­ing. At one point, Willis was on his death­bed, but now doc­tors re­port he is can­cer-free. They said that they are con­vinced it is a mir­acle from God.

Over time, they have cut back to only vis­it­ing Cal­i­for­nia pris­ons. They said that they con­sider San Quentin their pris­on. They’d test new mus­ical pieces here be­fore taking them to other pris­ons.

While still be­ing in­volved at San Quentin, Linda now only plays the piano at the nearby Tiburon Baptist Church.

“We’ve had more friends than any two peo­ple de­serve,” said Willis, who has been mar­ried to Linda for 47 years. “Our lives are so rich and full, both in­side and out­side of pris­on.”



Photo courtesy of John Eagan

Linda Rice playing the harp inside Tiburon Baptist Church

Little Hoover Report Sheds Light on Unsustainable Criminal Justice Policies

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

"Criminal justice policies that rely on building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable" and they will not result in improved public safety, reports the California Little Hoover Commission.

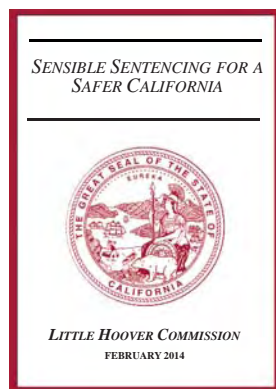
In its February finding, commission Chair Jonathan Shapiro called California's correctional system "a slow-motion disaster."

The commission is a bipartisan and independent state oversight agency.

The commission operates in the interest of taxpayers. It holds public hearings, consults with experts and visits government operations in action in order to help government agencies perform better. Its conclusions are given to the governor and Legislature for consideration.

Seven years ago, the commission issued "an unusually blistering report warning that time was running out for California policymakers to resolve the state's corrections crisis." (*Solving California's Corrections Crisis: Time is Running Out*)

The commission urged policymakers to amend the Penal Code to reflect that the purpose of incarceration cannot just be punishment, but also to reduce



recidivism and successful community reintegration. "Rehabilitative programs and reducing crime are not mutually exclusive," the commission said.

"District attorneys who collectively have opposed even the slightest changes to sentencing laws are going to have to compromise," the commission report said. Bringing prison population to levels that do not violate the ban against cruel and unusual punishment "cannot be achieved without eliminating the state's chronic imbalance between what its sentencing laws require and the resources available to incarcerate offenders."

"Scientific research in the past 40 years has led to significant progress in many areas in Cali-

fornia," the commission noted. "When it comes to criminal justice sentencing, however, California has ignored the science."

The commission cited the national trend in attitude toward incarceration policies, noting that taxpayers "do not want to pay for failed policies that cycle offenders in and out of prison or incarcerate the mentally ill and the addicted for lengthy sentences without access to quality treatment."

The commission recognized that Realignment demonstrated that "California is serious about addressing its prison overcrowding problem." However, "Realignment alone will not be enough to bring the department into compliance with the Supreme Court order," according to an April 2012 report issued by CDCR.

The commission cited plans to build new prison beds:

Over the past several years, the state has allocated \$1.7 billion to expand local correctional facilities. The state has awarded \$1.2 billion to 21 counties for an expected expansion of 9,000 jail beds. The Board of State and Community Corrections plans to award another \$500 million to 15 counties for additional local capacity in 2014.

In September 2013, policymakers enacted SB 105, which

authorized \$315 million in the 2014-15 budget and \$1 billion in additional funding over three years for the state to lease additional prison cells, either county jail space or private correctional facilities both in and outside of California.

In the governor's 2014-15 budget proposal, Brown proposed an additional \$500 million for more expansion and improvements to local facilities for program space.

BY THE NUMBERS:

The state previously had built 12 prisons over the course of 132 years. During the 20-year building campaign between 1984 and 2005, California policymakers enacted hundreds of laws increasing sentence length, adding sentence enhancements and creating new sentencing laws. The result was that every new prison the state built filled to capacity quickly.

With the exception of the recently completed California Health Care Facility and the planned infill housing previously described, California ended its prison-building boom with the opening of Kern Valley State Prison in 2005. This was after adding 21 new facilities between 1984 and 2005.

Prior to the February 2014 court order, the California De-

partment of Corrections and Rehabilitation projected that the prison population would slowly continue to climb to approximately 136,600 by June 2014 and more than 142,000 by 2019 barring any additional changes, moving the state away from the 137.5 percent of capacity required by the courts.

In its Fall 2013 Adult Population Projections report, CDCR reported a spike in new admissions of offenders with a second strike in 2012-13, an increase of 32.6 percent over the previous fiscal year.

Approximately 20 percent, some 25,000 offenders, are serving term-to-life sentences, for example, 15-years-to-life in prison.

Of these, approximately 10,000 "lifers" have passed their minimum term. Nearly a third of the offenders serving life terms with the possibility of parole, which is more than 8,000 offenders, are 50 years old or older. Almost half of the offenders serving 25 years to life as a result of a third strike, nearly 4,200 offenders, also are older than 50.

CDCR data show that less than 5 percent of lifers released from prison are returned to prison for a new crime, compared to 51 percent of the rest of the prison population released from prison.

Ballot Measure Would Reclassify 7 Nonviolent Crimes

This November, California voters will decide whether to reclassify seven types of nonviolent drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

Proposition 47 would generally allow people in jail and prison to appear before a judge and have their sentences reflect the lower terms.

The measure would also create a fund for programs intended to reduce crime and support crime victims, according to *California Budget Project*.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates net savings to the overall criminal justice system, both state and local, in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

"If Proposition 47 passes, California will be the first state in the nation to end felony sentencing for drug possession and petty theft crimes," reports *Califor-*

nians for Safe Neighborhoods & Schools. "The initiative will permanently reduce incarceration and shift one billion dollars over the next five years alone from state corrections to K-12 school programs and mental health and drug treatment."

In a recent *San Francisco Chronicle* opinion column, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón said, "Our over-incarceration problem cannot be solved until we address our penal code, which is outdated with excessive punishments, especially for drug offenses. But drug use is going up. The *National Survey on Drug Use and Health* found in 2012 that since 2012, illicit drug use increased by 8 percent and 20 million Americans who need substance abuse treatment did not receive it. We've failed."

Gascón added, "Proposition 47 can reverse these trends by

prioritizing prison space for those convicted of violent, serious crimes and investing the savings in mental health treatment, schools and victims — smart strategies to improve public safety. Fear mongering won't work; the public knows it's time to rethink our safety priorities. Proposition 47 will help us do that."

California Budget Project reports, "Opponents of Proposition 47, including the California District Attorneys Association and Crime Victims United, argue that 'California has plenty of laws and programs that allow judges and prosecutors to keep first-time, low-level offenders out of jail if it is appropriate. Proposition 47 would strip judges and prosecutors of that discretion.' Proposition 47, they argue, 'will overcrowd jails with dangerous felons who should

be in state prison and jam California's courts with hearings to provide Get Out of Prison Free cards.'"

The measure increases the threshold dollar amount for a crime that could be considered a felony to \$950 for the following crimes: Check fraud, Forgery, Shoplifting, Petty theft, Petty theft with a prior, Receiving stolen property.

In addition, the measure reclassifies most unlawful drug possession as a misdemeanor.

When a defendant appears before a judge for resentencing, the judge will deny relief if he determines that there is an "unreasonable risk" the person will commit one of several violent felonies.

State parole officers would supervise released offenders unless the court chooses to waive the parole requirement.

Excluded from relief are defendants with "a prior conviction for a serious and/or violent offense, as specified by the measure, or for any registerable sex offense."

Proposition 47 requires any state savings to be deposited into a special fund beginning in August 2016 exclusively for three purposes:

- Sixty-five percent for mental health treatment, drug treatment and diversion programs in order to reduce crime.
- Twenty-five percent for programs designed to improve outcomes for K-12 public school students by reducing truancy and supporting students who are at risk of dropping out or are victims of crime.
- Ten percent for trauma recovery centers to provide services to victims of crime.

—By Juan Haines

Implementing Restorative Justice to Keep Kids Out of Prisons

'A huge part of our work was interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in our own community'

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

A Chicago-based nonprofit is finding success helping at-risk kids stay out of prison by using restorative justice as a model toward resolving disciplinary issues in the classroom.

"A huge part of our work was interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in our own community," said Mariame Kaba, the founder and director of the Project NIA organization. It supports youth who

appear headed for the criminal justice system.

The organization committed to a local school, Gale Community Academy, assisting them in addressing disciplinary issues differently, as opposed to sending children to the principal's office where suspension or in some cases arrest would be imminent. Project NIA teaches local schools the benefit of peace circles and third-party mediation measures.

Kaba says the costs should be borne by local and state

government.

"Chicago Public Schools (CPS) really needed to take on the cost that is needed for a school like Gale..." Kaba said in an interview with Susan Du of *The Chicago Bureau*.

There is not a positive track record with the public school system supporting proactive alternatives to handling disciplinary issues, but there is good reason to be optimistic about future collaboration, the January article reported.

Jadine Chou is the newly appointed head of safety and

security at CPS. Chou has been trained in restorative justice and used it while working with the Chicago Public Housing Authority.

Kaba also asserted that schools are not the inception of the prison pipeline. There has long been talk about there being a cradle-to-prison pipeline, much of which is due to the poverty in urban cities. Where there is poverty, one can usually find an abundance of negative influences and trauma and high percentages of literacy challenged people.

These things contribute to high levels of delinquency, she said.

The schools need to do better at providing adequate training for teachers and classroom management, without relying on punitive measures to restore order, she added.

"CPS has done a great job of taking zero tolerance out of the discipline code, but they haven't funded the initiatives that are going to be needed to support the practical implication of teaching people how to not be punitive," Kaba said.

Study Reveals Decline in Juvenile and Adult Crime Rates and Incarceration

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

California has seen drastic drops in the rates of youth and adult incarceration in the past decades, accompanied by declines in the youth and adult crime rates, says Mike Males of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

The state's rate of youth incarceration has dropped 60 percent compared to that in 1996, and its rate of adult incarceration is 24 percent compared to 1999, according to Males.

"California has all but abolished state imprisonment and has sharply reduced local incarceration of youths to the lowest levels ever recorded – by far," Males said in a March report.

Males reported that there was "a 60 percent drop in the rate of youth incarceration in 17 years, along with a huge shift toward local and shorter terms" and that the current rate "probably (stood) at an all-time low."

In 1996, 20,793 California youths were locked up – 10,115 in state-run youth facilities and 10,678 in local juvenile halls and camps – in a total youth population (ages

10 to 17) of 3.7 million, he said.

As of Dec. 31, 2013, California held only 9,336 youths behind bars – just 683 in state-run youth facilities and 8,653 in local juvenile halls and camps. This is in spite of the fact that the teenaged youth population has grown to 4.1 million since 1996, he added.

Males also reported "an unprecedented reduction in adult incarceration" in the state – adult prisoners decreased by 30,000 since 1999.

About 240,000 adults were held in California state prisons and local jails on an average day in 1999 in an adult population (ages 18 to 69) of 21.7 million, according to Males. In 2013, only 217,000 were incarcerated in an adult population of 25.8 million. "That's a decline in the adult incarceration rate of 24 percent in 14 years, back to the level of 1993," he said.

Such decline in incarcerations "was largely forced on the state by court mandates and budget constraints," Males concluded. Yet California's youth crime rate plummeted to its lowest level since 1957, and adult violent crime declined since 1999 through

the first half of 2013, he said.

"While large-scale de-incarceration of youth and low-level adult offenders in favor of alternative strategies may contribute to long-term ben-

efits, the size of California's crime decrease, especially among youth, suggests much larger forces are at work." He commented that "locking up lots of younger and lesser

offenders is not vital to public safety today and opens up discussion beyond the simplistic debates of the past surrounding get-tough measures and sentencing reform."

Minorities Facing Racial Disparity in Private Prisons

Minorities make up 89 percent of the inmate population in California's private prisons, according to *Business Insider* news.

Doctoral candidate Christopher Petrella at the University of California, Berkeley, recently conducted a study on nine state prison systems with large private prison populations. The study "revealed for-profit prisons jail minorities even more disproportionately than publicly operated prisons," said Harrison Jacobs, author of the *Business Insider* article.

Jacobs noted that The Sentencing Project, a reform advocacy group, put the number of minorities incarcerated in the United States as high as 60 percent.

"While minorities are disproportionately incarcerated in all prisons in America," Jacobs

said. "The percentage of minorities in private prisons is often higher than 60 percent in some states' private prisons."

Jacobs cited the Petrella study to show the proportion of people of color in California's public prisons is 76 percent, but in its private (outsourced) prisons it is 89 percent. In Mississippi, the number of people of color in public prisons is 66 percent, but in private prisons it is 75 percent.

The Petrella study attributed the higher rate of minorities in private prisons to the for-profit prisons using contractual provisions to target young, healthy (and thus more profitable) inmates, Jacobs wrote, and, according to the study, younger prisoners tend to be minorities.

Petrella found that the private prison companies write exemp-

tions for certain types of prisoners into their contracts with states to target younger and healthier prisoners and avoid "above average" health care costs, Jacobs reported.

Petrella also found that prisoners older than 50 years are predominately white, and those in the 20-to-40-year-old range are far more likely to be black, Hispanic or any other minority, said Jacobs.

Jacobs cited the Petrella study to show that in Texas' public prisons 57 percent of inmates are people of color and in its private prisons the number is 69 percent. At the same time, the percentage of 50-year-or-older inmates in its public prisons is 37, but in Texas' private prisons, older inmates are a mere 17 percent.

– By Chung Kao

Labcon Industry Offers Prisoners Minimum Wage

The opportunity will be missed: 'I'm going from \$9 an hour to about 30 cents an hour'

Continue from Page 1

It was "a really big check," said an inmate worker. In fact, the check was about 2 feet wide by 4 feet long.

CVS has an office in Marin, where it provides counseling services for victims of rape and abuse, along with other services.

Speaking to the men, Montilliano said, "I want you to know that your hard work will help women and children." Schlau said, "We provide advisory services from housing to mediation." When counsel-

ing abuse victims, one important aspect is empowerment of the victim, indicated Schlau. She said, "We talk about taking control of their lives." CVS maintains a 24-hour crisis center and receives calls night and day, seven days a week.

Montilliano said that CVS serves several Marin communities and receives referrals from a number of other organizations. CVS works with agencies such as law enforcement and children's services.

"It's a full-time job helping victims find medical attention, housing or counselors,"

said Montilliano. Speaking of the many people who benefit from their services, Montilliano said, "We provide services of one type or another to over 1,000 people every year." According to Schlau, CVS also has a number of volunteers who assist in their work.

The other recipient, Sunny Hills Services, operates Sunny Hills Children's Center.

"What you're doing is a really great thing — giving back to the community," said Karen Bischoff of Sunny Hills to the gathered men.

Although the center's focus

is on children, it also provides services to adults. Bischoff said most of their contact is with women, and there is "hardly any domestic violence support for men." However, according to Rusty Bechtold, administrator of the Inmate Employability Program, "You never know, some time you [men] may need that help."

According to inmates, the ceremony was bittersweet because Labcon is closing its Joint Venture program at San Quentin. The packaging of "tipetts" and "culture tubes" done by Labcon workers is

now going to be performed by a robot. Therefore, affected inmates will soon be losing their income and losing what some say is the best job at San Quentin.

According to Aly Tamboura, "It's nice to have a nest egg when you get out." He said that although he has some money saved for when he leaves prison, he would prefer that Labcon not close. Commenting on the financial state of most paroling inmates, Tamboura said, "When the state gives someone \$200 at the gate, how do they expect them to survive?"

Tamboura was on a waiting list for about 18 months before he could get his Labcon job. Although he has saved some money, "It would be better to have a little more." He said that the \$200 given to newly released prisoners might be one night in a hotel and a meal – and asked, "What do they expect a person to do after that?"

Inmate Labcon worker Al Garner said, "I'd loved to have stayed for the 16 months I have left, but at least I have some savings for parole." Speaking about Labcon he said, "The opportunity is – well there's none like it. I'm going from \$9 an hour to about 30 cents an hour," he said referring to finding a prison job after Labcon is closed.

All the inmates are feeling a little bit at a loss, said Bruley Overda. "I'm proud that we gave all that money to people needing financial help," he said. "We had a good thing."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Labcon employees, prison officials and donation recipients pose with checks outside Labcon work area

ACLU Sues Alameda County for Forcing Women to Take Mandatory Pregnancy Tests

By Nelson T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

A civil rights organization is suing to halt the forced pregnancy testing of women when they are booked into the Alameda County jail.

This amounts to an invasion of the women's privacy, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said in the lawsuit filed in June against Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern.

Plaintiffs are three women, including a 69-year-old political activist, who were forced to submit to the testing. The suit says the forced testing violates priva-

cy rights under both federal and state constitutions, and violates state law allowing inmates to refuse non-emergency medical care.

"The sheriff's policy publicly intrudes into one of the most intimate and private areas of a person's life—reproductive decision-making," the suit states.

This case comes on the heels of the revelation that some women were sterilized by state prison doctors against their will and consent.

Plaintiff Nancy Macias said she was forced to take a pregnancy test after her arrest during an August 2012 political protest.

"Being forced to submit to a pregnancy test against my will was not about my health," Macias told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "It was invasive, offensive and humiliating."

The suit filed in Superior Court included a 2010 letter from Ahern to the ACLU, stating that women who are brought to the Glenn Dyer Jail are tested so they can be provided with the necessary medical treatment. When a woman tests positive, she is transferred to the Santa Rita County Jail where there is an obstetrics clinic, the letter said.

Susan Harman, a political ac-

tivist, was 69 years old when she was forced to take a pregnancy test in 2010 after being arrested during a protest of the Oscar Grant shooting. Harman says the testing was not done out of concern for her health.

"Nobody gave us any explanation," she told the *Chronicle*. Harman, who is diabetic, says officers ignored her requests for her daily insulin shot, but were insistent that she take a pregnancy test. Both Harman and Macias were released the following day, without the results of their tests.

The ACLU says that the proper way to conduct the testing is to offer it on a voluntary basis

as part of the routine health care screening.

A spokesman for Ahern, Sgt. J.D. Nelson, said the forced testing was part of the settlement from a 10-year-old lawsuit against the sheriff's office for not providing pregnancy testing.

"If you tell us that we have to test people and then tell us that we can't test people, what can we do?" Nelson said. He did not provide details of the settled lawsuit or who filed it.

The lawsuit does not seek monetary damages, but instead requests the court to order the sheriff's office to end the practice.

Report: The 80 to 90 Percent of Women Who Seek Mental Health And Substance Abuse Programs Experienced Violence and Trauma

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

Eighty to 90 percent of women seeking services from public mental health and substance abuse programs have experienced violence and trauma, frequently beginning at childhood, according to a September 2013 report.

The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma has published "a working document" entitled "Trauma-Informed Approaches: Federal Activities and Initiatives" that stresses a "trauma-informed" approach to addressing the consequences of violence and abuse against adult and young women.

"I was shocked by the sobering statistics. Thirty-seven percent of women with disabilities have experienced violence and abuse in their lifetime, compared with 20 percent of women without disabilities," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy.

The report relies on findings

made by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that sponsored a five-year study on this issue called "Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence."

This long-term study demonstrated that in addressing the needs of women regarding public health and social services, the central focus for a successful recovery must be on the trauma they experienced. New ways of responding to such trauma also were stressed, including evidence-based interventions and education counseling models.

The Federal Partners Committee supports a "trauma-informed" approach to addressing the needs of women and girls and describes efforts to reduce rates of violence and trauma as a multi-agency and multi-pronged strategy, with prevention being a key part of the plan.

The committee reported on "cross-agency" collaboration—the coordination between more than three dozen federal agencies and sub-agencies, based upon a

shared concern about trauma.

"All of us have to be out there convincing folks that this is the right work to be done, and this is the right time to do it," said Commissioner Bryan Samuels of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

The Department of Defense (DOD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (SAPRO) are now assisting women and girls by use of "trauma-specific treatments."

The DOD's sister agency, U.S. Department of Education, is tackling the issue by assigning the women, violence and trauma problem to its Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which has brought a significant measure of fair treatment and equal protection to both male and female students. The act prohibits discrimination

based on gender, and protects against sexual harassment and sexual violence in public and private spaces and institutions.

Another major federal agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), has also adopted trauma-informed strategy in dealing with women and abuse issues. Its sub-agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), states as part of its mission that by learning more about the trajectories by which trauma develops, NIH wants to stimulate innovative psychological and biomedical approaches that can prevent or change these trajectories before the consequences of the trauma occur.

These initiatives and activities on behalf of major agencies of the federal government indicate that cross-collaboration is underway.

Other federal agencies showing distinct orientation toward the trauma-informed strategy include DHHS's Office on Women's Health (OWH), the Department of Justice's National

Institute of Corrections (NIC), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Office for Victims of Crime, each of which are mentioned in the report.

The core finding by SAMHSA, as stated in the report's preface, is that empowering women to tell their own stories produces both healing and a powerful force for change. SAMHSA's influential study conducted from 1998-2003 has been the foundation of the Federal Partners Committee's trauma-informed approach.

However, "One thing was immediately self-evident," says Valorie Carson of Johnson County, Kansas' Interagency Trauma-Informed Care Task Force: "No organization would ever be 'done' implementing trauma-informed care. Once begun, it would be a continuous process requiring ongoing reflection on practices and policies, training for new staff and boosters for long-time staff and an attentive eye on the organization's culture to prevent returning to prior practices."

SHU Confinement Said to Violate Eighth Amendment Rights

Continue from page 1

punishment — and that SHU placement without meaningful review violates their right to due process.

The class action motion was filed by 10 Pelican Bay inmates in the SHU, but the state has since moved five of them to other quarters. Wilken's order allows the remaining five to represent "500 Pelican Bay prisoners who have spent more than a decade in isolation, and some 1,100 put into solitary because of alleged gang associations," the *Times* reported.

"There is a clear and consistent pattern in the stories articulated by these 10 men about the psychological consequences of spending a decade or longer in the SHU," court records said. "Plaintiffs allege that SHU inmates live in almost total isolation. They spend at least 22 and a half hours per day in windowless, concrete cells."

"They are denied telephone calls, contact visits and vocational, recreational or educational programming. And, because SHU prisoners do not receive any meaningful review of their placement, their isolation can effectively be permanent," *Bay View* reported.

Among the issues in the lawsuit, inmates are challenging the process the state prison system used to decide whom it confines in super-maximum security units "for an indefinite stay," the *Times* reported.

"SHU assignments disproportionately affect Black and Latino prisoners. The percentage of Latinos in the Pelican Bay SHU, for example was 85 percent in 2011, far higher than their representation in the general prison population, which was 41 percent," *Bay View* reported.

Attorneys representing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) say "isolation is necessary... to hinder gang activ-

ity inside and outside prison walls," the *Times* reported.

Wilken did not allow the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), the prison guard union, to "intervene in the lawsuit," the *Times* reported.

Court records show that the CCPOA argued it has "an interest in protecting the safety of its members" by preventing prisoners from leaving solitary confinement. The guard's union also argued that it "should be granted leave to intervene."

"Neither of these arguments is persuasive," Wilken wrote. "CCPOA has not explained why defendants cannot adequately protect the safety interests of CDCR officers in this litigation."

Many inmates who are part of the lawsuit worked last year to organize a statewide hunger strike to call attention to the use of solitary confinement throughout the prison system.



File photo

Inside a Pelican Bay cell

The Experiences and Struggles Of Undocumented Immigrants

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

Many people wonder what it is like to live in an underground economy. Undocumented immigrants live that life. Living in a country without documents and being a part of an underground economy is something I have experienced. I know what it's like to live in a country where you want to become a citizen, but cannot.

Readers probably are thinking that I wanted to be a citizen of the U.S., but that is not the case. I am a U.S. citizen. I was living as an illegal immigrant in Mexico.

Living undocumented and underground gave me an interesting perspective on U.S. immigration policy. Reflecting on it now, I can feel empathy for the 11 million U.S. undocumented people living in the U.S.

Reflection also brings to mind the saying, "Don't judge me until you've walked a mile in my shoes."

WALKING IN MY SHOES:

I was facing 123 years to life for a residential burglary under California's Three Strikes law. Before my trial, I got out on bail and fled to Mexico.

Authorities from both countries hunted for me as a fugitive from the U.S. and I had to live underground in Mexico. Even though my entire heritage was Mexican, I couldn't be a citizen while undocumented.

While working on a farm, I met a beautiful woman, settled down and started a family. I had to look over my shoulder all the

EDITORIAL

time. Despite that fearful feeling, I did my best to settle into my life.

That fear of dodging the authorities made me think of my heritage — of my father when he first came to the U.S.

My situation in Mexico was the opposite of my father's situation. My father was illegally in the U.S.; I was illegally in Mexico. The difference: My father wasn't wanted by the law. Nevertheless, we both lived fearing the authorities.

U.S. HISTORY GENERALLY UNTOLD:

During World War II, as many U.S. citizens were pressed into military service, there was a gaping need for laborers in the workforce. When Mexico joined the Allied Forces in 1942, the U.S. and Mexican governments entered into the Bracero agreement.

The Bracero program was a series of diplomatic agreements whereby the U. S. hired temporary contract laborers from Mexico for manual labor. However, the program created a new underclass of American workers who were underpaid and who could not climb up the socioeconomic ladder. Americans looked down upon this new immigrant class.

When the war was over, the Braceros were supposed to go back to Mexico, but many had established families in the U.S. Going back to Mexico would mean uprooting their families

and going into a situation best described as uncertain. Moreover, there was an estimated half billion dollars still owed to ex-Braceros. The fight for that money continues even today.

My father came to the U.S. under the Bracero agreement. But, he didn't want to go back to Mexico. He stayed because marriage to my mother brought the responsibilities of raising nine children. Being a hard worker in the U.S. provided the resources to care for them. Thus he became an illegal immigrant.

IF THE SHOE FITS:

Reflecting on my family history, I am able to see that the Bracero program altered

the fate of many people, the many Mexicans who came to the U.S. seeking a better life for their families.

When I worked as a farm laborer in Mexico and my beautiful daughter was born, I also took on family responsibilities. But, that didn't change the fact that I was a fugitive and living illegally in Mexico. I was caught between two worlds of my own creation—being an outlaw and wanting to take care of my family. In the end, my family came first.

When it comes to the immigrants who are now working in the U.S. but are outside of the law, I think we should

reach out and change the rules because these people are human beings and doing hard labor that really helps the U.S. economy.

It is a "tough on crime" mentality — not wanting the U.S. to look weak — that makes some citizens steadfastly say, "The law is the law."

But we need to face reality: The people who would be helped by immigration reform are people who break their backs to create a better life for their family. There has to be a balance if America is to be considered a place where compassionate people live and it is a country of opportunity in the eyes of the world.

I am suggesting that U.S. immigration policy should provide a path for law-abiding undocumented workers to become citizens. They are the hard working, family-first type of people who Americans respect.

Respecto a las Apelaciones De Reclusos

Por Kevin D. Sawyer
Presidente del gremio periodístico

Reclusos a menudo se quejan acerca del rechazo de la tramitación de sus quejas, las cuales son conocidas como apelaciones administrativas, cuando los coordinadores locales las procesan.

El problema se incrementa cuando los reclusos no comprenden completamente el sistema de apelación y los continuos cambios hechos a los Códigos de Regulaciones de California, Estatuto 15 — Title 15— (División 3).

La última revisión importante al proceso de apelación tomo lugar en el 2011, cuando la Regulación y Sucursal de la Gerencia de Póliza (RMPB, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) presento una Notificación de Cambio de Emergencia a las Regulaciones (NCR) para adoptar y enmendar secciones del Estatuto 15.

Estas nuevas regulaciones introdujeron la Forma CDCR 22, Recluso/Solicitud de Entrevista para ex-reclusos en libertad condicional, Artículo o Servicios (CDCR Form 22, Inmate/Parolee Request for Interview, Item or Services). Esta forma reemplaza el nivel informal de revisión en la Forma CDCR 602 (CDCR Form 602) anterior.

Las apelaciones son presentadas en una Forma CDCR 602, Recluso/Apelación para ex-reclusos (CDCR Form 602 Inmate/Parolee Appeal. Estatuto 15, secciones 3084 y 3084.1 hasta 3084.9 gobiernan la Forma CDCR 602.

No existe referencia a la Forma CDCR 22 en ninguna de estas secciones porque ellas no gobiernan esta nueva forma. La forma 22 es gobernada por el Estatuto 15, sección 3086. Esta sección delinea el procedimiento en como escribir peticiones sólidas.

El Estatuto 15 esta en un continuo estado de desarrollo

porque el CDCR no es una entidad estática. El Estatuto 15 cambia en acorde a las necesidades del departamento, la población presidiaría, y mandatos expuestos en la ley.

“Todas las regulaciones del CDCR tienen que ser creadas y aprobadas en acorde con los requerimientos del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos de California (APA)”

Cambios propuestos para el Estatuto 15 son escritos por el CDCR e imprimidos en NCRs; los reclusos algunas veces se refieren a ellas como “esas cosas rosadas” por el color de la portada.

“Todas las regulaciones del CDCR tienen que ser creadas y aprobadas de acuerdo con los requerimientos del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos de California (APA),” según al Manual para Prisioneros del Estado de California, por Heather MacKay y la Oficina Legal de Prisiones. “La APA es explicada en la sección del Código de Gobierno 1134 y secuencial. Los estatutos requiriendo al CDCR promulgar reglas conforme a el APA fueron aprobados en 1975, legislativamente anulando una decisión de la corte que había dictaminado que el APA no aplica a las reglas del CDCR.”

El APA manda que los cambios a regulaciones sean disponibles al público con un periodo subsecuente para los comentarios públicos. Esto puede suceder al atender una audiencia publica sobre regulaciones propuestas

en fechas y horarios especificados en las oficinas del CDCR 1515 S St., North Building, Sacramento, CA. 95811; Audiencias publicas so sostenidas en otros localidades, de acuerdo a Kristina Khokhobashvili, oficial de Información Publica de CDCR escribiéndole a CDCR RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA. 94283-0001; enviando un fax al (916) 324-6075; o enviando un correo electrónico a RPMB@cdcr.ca.gov. Cuando el periodo de comentario publico termina, información sobre los cambios propuestos a regulaciones es transmitida a la Oficina de Ley Administrativa (OAL).

Para ser analizados en Sacramento. La OAL puede o no aprobar ciertos cambios por muchas razones.

Una Decisión de Desapruuebo de Acción Regulatoria puede ser emitida para algunas regulaciones. Regulaciones aprobadas son dirigidas a la Secretaria del Estado de California para ser actualizadas en el Estatuto 15.

Regulaciones en trámite (NCRs) no citadas en una publicación actual del Estatuto 15 pueden ser leídas en las librerías legales de la prisión o en la Internet. Notificaciones “tienen que ser publicadas inmediatamente en cuanto son recibidas en las locaciones accesibles a los reclusos, ex-reclusos bajo libertad-condicional, y empleados en cada instalación del departamento y esfera de actividades...” de acuerdo con el Manual de Operaciones del Departamento.

NCRs también pueden ser enviadas directamente por correo si alguien desea recibir una copia escribiendo al CDCR RPMB y solicitando ser añadido en su lista de direcciones.

Las regulaciones dirigen el uso de las formas CDCR (i.e. CDCR 22, 602, etc.). Comprendiendo como trabaja el proceso de regulación puede hacer la comunicación entre reclusos y personal menos adversaria, partidarios dicen.

—Traducción Jorge Heredia

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We Offer News Reports, Not Legal Advice

From: Steve L.
Wasco State Prison:

I enjoyed reading your news on Three Strikes. Good work! I hope your paper continues to be informative on the conditions and well-being of prisoners as well the community.

Would you send me the latest information pertaining to any time cuts for prisoners by Governor Brown? Your response is patiently awaited.

Please send me literature or a list of other things I may buy

with postage stamps.

Editor's response:

We are glad that you enjoy the *San Quentin News*, and we appreciate that you have taken the time to write us. You can be sure that we will report on any significant developments concerning time cuts.

Unfortunately, we cannot fulfill your request. We cannot give legal advice and we do not have the resources to send literature to prisoners.

—Emile DeWeaver
SQ News Staff

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Report: Tough on Crime Era Resulted in Failure

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Years of “get tough on crime” policies have failed, according to a study by Karol Lucken of the University of Central Florida.

ida. Lucken’s study condensed decades of analysis of mass incarceration policies.

When coupled with reports of the Vera Institute of Justice, clear conclusions can be drawn that demonstrate few winners

in the “get tough on crime” era. According to the analysis, the get-tough era, or as some call it, mass incarceration, has failed in every respect. The perpetual prisoner machine is a broken-down clunker.

Department of Justice Focuses On Improving Criminal Justice

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Department of Justice has conducted a review of the criminal justice system to identify reforms needed to ensure the uniform application of federal laws for the 21st century. This project identified five goals:

1) The devotion of finite resources to the most important law enforcement priorities.

2) To promote even-handed law enforcement and reduce unequal impacts of the criminal justice system.

3) To ensure fair punishments for low-level, nonviolent convictions.

4) Bolster offender re-entry efforts geared to deter crime and reduce recidivism.

5) Strengthen protections for vulnerable populations.

All phases of the criminal justice were reviewed in August 2013 — including charging, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry — to examine which practices are most successful at deterring crime and protecting the public. Demographic disparities of fundamental fairness were also reviewed.

The review suggests a need for a significant change in the approach to enforcing the nation’s laws. It found the cycle of poverty, criminality and incarceration snares too many Americans and debilitates communities,

and many aspects of the criminal justice system may actually exacerbate these problems.

Although aggressive enforcement of federal laws is necessary, the government cannot prosecute its way to becoming a safer nation, according to the study. Federal efforts must also focus on prevention and re-entry to be effective. The report also acknowledged it is time to rethink the nation’s system of mass incarceration. In 2010 alone, state and federal incarceration budgets cost \$80 billion nationwide.

The DOJ wants to shift away from over-reliance on incarceration for low-level offenders and concentrate resources on law enforcement priorities, such as violence prevention and protection of vulnerable populations.

The Justice Department’s initial package of reforms is dubbed the “Smart on Crime” initiative. It is the start of an ongoing effort to update the criminal justice system. The DOJ proposed these principles for getting smart on crime:

Prioritized prosecutions focused on the most serious crimes that implicate clear, substantial federal interests. These interests include protecting citizens from national security threats, violent crime and financial fraud as well as, protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

Reform sentencing to eliminate unfair disparities and re-

duce overburdened prisons. The rising cost of maintaining prisons imposes an oppressive burden on taxpayers and communities. The Bureau of Prisons comprises one-third of the Justice Department’s budget.

Pursue alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent crimes. Incarceration is not the answer in every case. Alternatives to confinement include substance abuse treatment programs and better supervision as a means to reducing recidivism.

Improve re-entry to curb repeat offenses and re-victimization. Recidivism rates are high. A reduction of even one or two percentage points in the recidivism rate could create long-lasting benefits for the formerly incarcerated and their communities.

“Surge” resources to violence prevention and protecting the most vulnerable populations.

Even though crime rates have fallen, neighborhoods still suffer high levels of homicide, shootings and aggravated assaults. Exploring cost-effective reforms to the prison system will allow law enforcement to redirect scarce resources toward violence prevention.

In addition to these violence prevention efforts, the Department of Justice also remains focused on serving victims of crime. It will empower survivors who need assistance the most.

Lucken pointed out that financial considerations are bringing criminal justice operatives face-to-face with the reality of their failed policies. Unsustainable practices leading to mass incarceration have caused political jurisdictions to suffer financial strain. Because of their inability to carry the financial burden they created, politicians and bureaucrats are now changing course and their messages.

Public sentiment and penal practices are shifting. Pronouncements fanning public fear as a way into office are giving way to more reasoned policies. According to Lucken, “voters are moved by language that suggests they could be getting more bang for their investment,” when it comes to corrections.

The university report says “policies which defined the era such as the War on Drugs, minimum mandatory sentencing, habitual offender statutes, three strikes and truth in sentencing statutes, have been thoroughly analyzed and disputed.” In addition, according to Lucken, documented effectiveness of the programs has been found lacking.

Years of interpretation by many organizations leads to an inescapable conclusion that the failures are significant. There is a clear lack of success in criminal sentencing practices across the board. The studies show mass incarceration has no demonstrable affect on crime or

recidivism. William Shepherd, chairman of the American Bar Association, said that overcriminalization has in fact produced negative results and made the problem worse.

Newly incarcerated people primarily come from three sources, according to the Vera Institute.

The first group are people who have been just been convicted of a crime. Then there are those who are on probation or parole, who violate the conditions of their probation or parole. This second group of probation or parole violators makes up 44 percent of the national prison population, according to the report.

However, research found when examining the probation/parole group who have committed a new offense in which the evidence is weak, the authorities simply declare the person “in violation of his parole” and do not have to prove anything in court. This makes up the third group.

As a punitive policy experiment, scare tactics of law enforcement propelled the get-tough era. Legal factors such as legislative and statutory changes to penal codes facilitated excessively long sentences, according to Vera.

In the last 40 years, the combined prison population of all states swelled by over 700 percent. During the same period, costs of running state prisons increased from \$6.7 billion to about \$50 billion.

Stanislaus County Invests Millions For Re-entry and Bed Expansion

By David Eugene Archer
Journalism Guild Writer

Stanislaus County has launched a \$113 million construction program to add 480 jail beds and a re-entry center.

It is the largest capital project in county history. The jail expansion includes a medical and mental health wing, *The Modesto Bee* reported.

“It is good for jobs and the builders, but the outcome of jail expansion has been nothing but failure,” said Vonya Quarles, an organizer for All of Us or None. She has organized rallies against jail expansion in River-side County.

“It costs \$52,000 a year to put someone in county jail. That would be better spent on mental health services, substance-abuse treatment or early education,” Quarles told *The Bee*.

As part of Realignment, the state awarded \$80 million for jail expansion and \$40 million for the re-entry center in

Modesto.

Patty Hill Thomas, the county’s chief operating officer, expects construction work to start in September and be completed in late 2016.

“It is good for jobs and the builders, but the outcome of jail expansion has been nothing but failure”

The state’s jail construction financing program coincides with the public safety Realignment program passed by the California Legislature. It had been proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown in response to court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. It keeps some lower-level prisoners in county custody, instead of locking them up

in state prison.

The county will cap the current expansion with 288 beds of transition jail housing in the new re-entry facility, which will have classrooms and resources for inmates who are within a year of release.

The new jail beds will allow the antiquated men’s jail in downtown Modesto to be emptied, the newspaper reported.

Jill Silva, chief probation officer, said at an Aug. 15 kickoff ceremony that programs are changing the lives of criminal offenders. The new jail facilities will come with services for those struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse and addiction.

Hensel Phelps of San Jose will construct the maximum-security units and support facilities under contracts totaling \$82.6 million. The county awarded a \$4.4 million contract for Simile Construction of Modesto to build the probation reporting center.

Legislation to eliminate disparities for certain drug crimes has made its way through the California Legislature.

The measure, SB 1010, would “reduce the penalty for possession for sale of cocaine base to be the same as that for powder cocaine” and revises “the guidelines for probation eligibility for both the possession for sale of powder cocaine and cocaine base.”

The bill, titled the *California Fair Sentencing Act*, is authored by Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles.

Opposition to the measure has surfaced from the California Narcotics Officers Association and California Police Chiefs Association.

The CPCA is quoted in the bill analysis as saying, “We believe that the preferable approach is to raise the penalties for powder cocaine trafficking to the same level that currently exists for trafficking in cocaine base ... Although we support equalizing the penalty structures, we do not believe that drug traffickers — who visit real harm on communities — should be the beneficiaries of legislation that equalizes the penalty structure.”

Advocates for SB 1010 include Susan Burton, Michelle Alexander, Jonathan Simon and

Dr. Joy Degrew. They suggest that for years disproportionate sentencing practices have targeted specific races. In her book, *A New Way of Life*, Burton wrote that, “For far too many years, we have had to watch harsh penalties applied disproportionately to black and brown urban communities.”

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports that from 2005 to 2010, statistics show that blacks accounted for 77.4 percent, Latinos 18.1 percent and whites less than 2 percent of the people who were convicted and sentenced to prison for the possession and sales of crack cocaine.

Delia de la Vara, vice president of the National Council for La Raza, California Region, told the ACLU, “Statistics don’t lie. Communities of color are treated differently within California’s judicial system, often subjected to harsher sentencing for essentially the same crimes as their white counterparts.”

Supporters of the bill include Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón and Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce Dudley.

After Assembly approval, SB 1010 advanced to the full Senate for final legislative action. On Sept. 29, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill.

Disciplinary Policies Send Black Preschoolers To Court Instead of Principal’s Office

By **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**
Journalism Guild Writer

President Obama’s administration has advised educators to abandon overly zealous disciplinary policies, many of which send students to courts instead of the principals’ offices, reports *The Associated Press*. Black children make up about 18 percent of the nation’s preschoolers but almost half of the students who were suspended

more than once, the American Education Department’s (AED) civil rights arm reported earlier this year. Highlighted in the report were racial disparities, lack of access to advanced classes and quality instruction, and discipline policies within the educational system. These lead to the argument that due to racial disparities associated with the handling of disciplinary issues, black children begin to gravitate toward

criminal behavior. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said something must be done immediately. “Every data point represents a life impacted and a future potentially diverted or derailed. This administration is moving aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in order to ensure that all of our young people have equal educational opportunities,” Holder said. The report drew this response

of U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan: “It is clear that the United States has a great distance to go to meet our goal of providing opportunities for every student to succeed.” The AED study on pre-school children suspension disparities was a first. However, it is widely recognized that get-tough suspension and arrest policies target minority students and contribute to the “school-to-prison” pipeline, according to the AP report. “The racial disparities in American education, from access to high-level classes and experienced teachers to discipline” were highlighted in the AED report.

National Education Association teachers’ union President Dennis Van Roekel said, “too many children don’t have equitable access to experienced and fully licensed teachers.” Van Roekel said he believes that today’s policies, at least in part, disregard the professionalism of teaching, and there is a revolving door of under-prepared teachers, resulting in the inability to make a notable difference. The report also gave statistics on Hispanic children who face similar disciplinary improprieties. While Hispanics make up nearly one-third of the preschooler population, they made up 25 percent of the preschoolers suspended once and 20 percent of preschoolers suspended more than once.

Curbing Truancy in California to Prevent Dropouts

By **N.T. Butler**
Journalism Guild Writer

A campaign is underway to curb truancy in California, termed a crisis that frequently leads to dropouts, crime and prison. “We take this matter very seriously,” Attorney General Kamala Harris said in a March news conference to endorse a series of bills in the Legislature to combat truancy. She said more than 690,000 elementary (K-6) students – 20 percent of the total – were truant at least once in the 2011-12 school year.

If not stopped in elementary grades, students are more likely to drop out of high school, and dropouts are more likely to wind up in prison, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Harris said. Five bills introduced in March of this year aim to strengthen accountability by both state and local school districts when it comes to the collection and reporting of truancy statistics. Truancy is defined as any student who is late to class by 30 minutes or more without a valid excuse three times during the year.

“We need to try to get ahold of our young people early and make sure they end up in the classroom and not the courtroom,” said Assemblyman Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, during the news conference. Holden is the author of one of the proposed bills. “With this slate of bills, we are not putting more students in the juvenile justice system, but inviting communities to intervene before they end up in the penal system,” said Holden. The proposed legislation would require that the Attorney General’s Office issue a report each year, increase truancy data collection and require counties to create school attendance review boards that issue reports on truancy intervention programs. It also requires prosecutors to issue reports whenever charges are filed against a parent or student to enforce attendance laws. “We act like it’s a surprise, but it’s not,” Harris said during the press conference. “Almost all of it is predictable. Instead of being reactive, this data will allow us to be preventive.”

Harris said her interest in the truancy issue began when she was San Francisco district attorney. She noted that 94 percent of San Francisco’s homicide victims under the age of 25 were high school dropouts. In September 2013, Harris released her report of the truancy problem in the state, which was the first statewide assessment of truancy specifically addressing elementary schools and the financial impact on counties. The report concluded chronic truancy and absenteeism in the state’s schools caused California to lose \$1.4 billion a year in funding and suffer lower test scores and a higher dropout rate. The report estimates that society lost \$46 billion a year when other factors are added, including reduced earnings, increased welfare services and higher crime rates for high school dropouts. Calaveras County reported the highest truancy rate at 31 percent of the county’s elementary school students. Yuba County had the lowest rate, with only 4.9 percent of elementary students being truant.

University Symposium To Focus on Education

By **Thomas Gardner**
Journalism Guild Writer

California needs to continue reducing prison overcrowding and focus more attention on education and communities, according to a recent university symposium. The University of California Merced’s Center for the Humanities sponsored the event, titled “30 Years of Mass Incarceration.” “We don’t want to save money, we want to spend it on education and the bettering of the community,” said activist and author Ruth Wilson Gilmore, as reported by the *Merced Sun Star*. “Things do not have to be the way they became. There were alternatives away from mass incarceration, but they weren’t taken,” Gilmore added. The event featured professors

and authors as part of the university’s seminar series called “Race and Justice in Transnational Perspective.” On the subject of race and injustice, mass incarceration cannot be avoided, said Associate Professor Tanya Golash-Boza, organizer of the symposium. “When we talk about race disparities and injustice, incarceration is a big issue,” she said. Two of the university’s professors from the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Nigel Hatton and Zulema Valdez, also volunteer their time and energy with the Prison University Project. The professors said the inmates they have worked with appreciate the access to education, the *Sun Star* reported. Golash-Boza noted that symposium attendees included students, organizers of projects and public defenders.

San Francisco Sheriff’s Department Aids Mentally Ill Inmates

Continued from Page 1

ing out of jail once released,” Mirkarimi said in a *San Francisco Bay Guardian* opinion piece. “Keeping in touch is almost an impossible reality considering the jolting cost of making a \$1 per minute in-state, long-distance or pre-paid collect call.” In the *Guardian*, Mirkarimi said the jail’s new telephone contract with GTL includes a 70 percent reduction for a 15-minute collect or pre-paid collect, in-state, long-distance call — from \$13.35 to \$4.05. There is also a 32 percent reduction for a 15-minute, debit, in-state, long-distance call — from \$5.98 to \$4.05. “We are now entering into a new commissary contract with lower fees,” Mirkarimi said in the *City & County of San Francisco Sheriff’s Department Newsletter*. “Having a family member in jail creates

many financial hardships, and every few dollars saved lessens that burden.” The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department is implementing a new city law allowing its staff to enroll inmates into health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, Mirkarimi told *The California Report*. Mirkarimi said that he believes making sure people have health coverage when they are released will help prevent them from committing another crime and coming back. “With the Affordable Care Act, you can now qualify for Medi-Cal based on income,” said Tanya Mara, the director of the health division of jail re-entry services. Medi-Cal allows health insurance for low income Californians. The Affordable Care Act has expanded Medicaid to include adults who have no children, which qualifies most prisoners for the government health coverage at no cost when they are

released. In addition, the new coverage includes treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders, problems affecting more than half the people in prison or jail, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Justice. “You have a captive audience,” Mirkarimi told *The California Report*. The *California Report* cites Mirkarimi as wanting to ensure that “the 30,000 prisoners who come through the jail system every year are covered on the day they’re released.” However,

he recognizes even if someone has a Medi-Cal card, that doesn’t mean they will know how to use it.

“We, and our staff, help them get ready. But ultimately, it’s on them,” Mirkarimi said in the report.



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Inside San Bruno County Jail’s housing unit

‘DARKNESS IN THE GOLDEN STATE’

By Leslie Lakes
Contributing Writer

A well-attended fundraising event sponsored by Legal Services For Prisoners With Children (LSPC) was held in August at the Luggage Room Gallery on Market Street in San Francisco.

LSPC is a nonprofit organization located at 1540 Market St. in San Francisco. Its main mission is to organize communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocate to release incarcerated people, to restore

human and civil rights and to reunify families and communities. LSPC focuses on providing legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization and development of community partnerships.

Dorsey Nunn, executive director of LSPC, has more than 35 years of experience working on prison-related issues. He was a co-founder of All of Us or None, an LSPC project started by formerly incarcerated people in 2003. Nunn was involved with many social justice organiza-

tions from their beginnings, including Critical Resistance and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

This event was to raise public awareness about the horrific effects Security Housing Units, often referred to as “solitary confinement,” through visual and written art forms donated by inmates currently incarcerated in Pelican Bay State Prison, San Quentin Prison and prisons elsewhere in the country. Featured were works by San Quentin inmate artists Thomas Winfrey, Ronnie Goodman and others.

In addition to thought-provoking art, photos and written works on display, Nunn read his original poems and Mark G. performed a dramatic monologue.

The evening also featured a screening of a short film, “Well Contested Sites,” a 13-minute dance/theater performance that explores the issue of mass incarceration and the complexity of experiences faced by those incarcerated. The film was a collaborative effort by Bay Area performing artists — some of whom were previously incarcerated — and filmmaker Austin Forbord and choreographer Amie Dowling. The performance piece was developed and filmed on Alcatraz Island.

After the event, a senior friend who attended commented, “I grew up pretty straight-laced without much prior sympathy for those who committed crimes and have to pay the penalty. Thus, I know prison life is awful, especially solitary confinement ... Fortunately, the beliefs we grow up with often change or diminish as we age, and from my own experience, I can now empathize with the feeling of isolation.”



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Admirers scan the wall for interesting art pieces



Photo by Leslie Lakes

From an unknown artist in Pelican Bay (SHU)



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Artwork courtesy of Rudy Villa

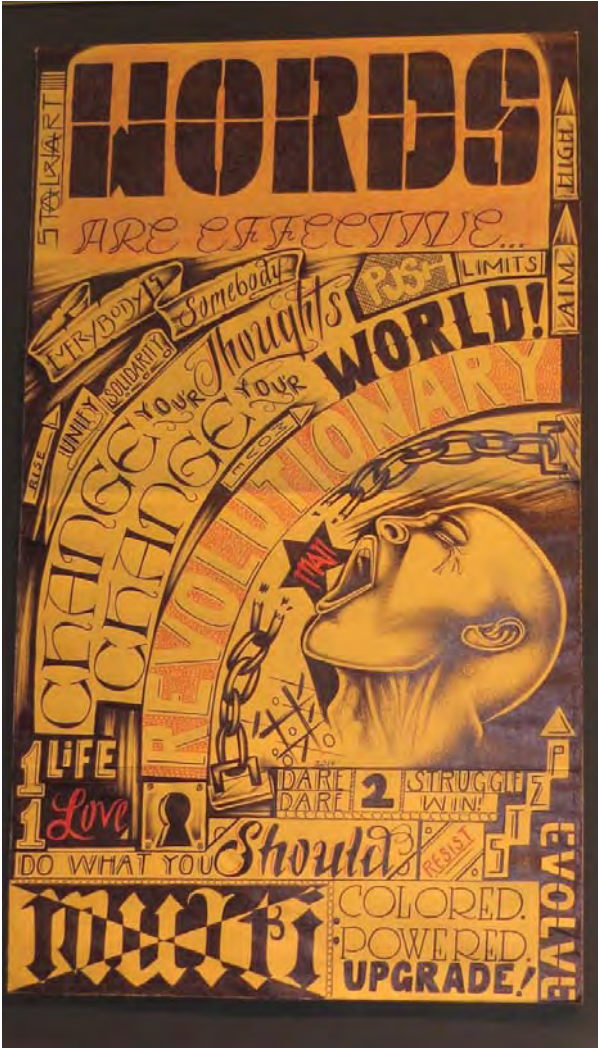


Photo by Leslie Lakes

Painting created by Criss Garcia, who is in Pelican Bay (SHU). Photo also serves as the media flyer for the event

The evening’s purpose was summed up by Amie Dowling, co-director and choreographer of “Well Contested Sites:”

“...(may) our efforts and investments continue to interrupt

the oppression of mass incarceration and celebrate the artistic and intellectual genius that resides in the men and women most impacted by the prison industrial complex.”



Photo by Leslie Lakes

One of many people enjoying the artworks on display

SQUIRES Program Mentors Youth to Make Positive Change



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Mentors share their personal experience with youth in a circle process



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Darnell Hill in the plaza area with Billy Allen and Von Miles explaining to the youth the rules inmates abide by in prison

By Ted Swain,
Staff Writer



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Nghiep "Ke" Lam explains that a greater weapon than a razor is a pen

Raphaela Casale's 'Dynamic' Presence Praised by Inmates in Program

One of the San Quentin program leaders is Raphaela Casale, who began her career with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the medical department.

"When I was in medical, I had no idea what self-help programs were," she said.

When Casale found out about SQUIRES, she said, "Wow! Here the kids can talk directly with inmates about how things can go really wrong just by making one wrong decision. It's very intense sometimes. These kids need to realize they have the power to choose the direction of their lives."

"I grew up in Marin and saw San Quentin from the highway all the time. I never thought about what went on at San Quentin. It's kind of funny," she said, "San Quentin has helped me to help kids."

Before working for CDCR, Casale was always interested in law enforcement support services and served as a community service officer for a year with Fresno County.

"Young people today have so many social pressures and are pulled in so many different directions," Casale said, "That's one reason they get into trouble. I wanted to work in the criminal justice system and help young people."

Casale hopes she is able to make a positive contribution by being involved with inmate self-help programs. In addition, she said that she believes those inmates who are involved in correctional education and vo-



Photo by L. Robinson

Raphaela Casale

cational training are improving themselves.

"These men are people who want to do the right thing and will, if given the chance," she said.

Casale has multiple responsibilities over a range of prison activities including secretarial duties for the wardens office and overseeing the inmate music program. However, she says she loves working with the SQUIRES kids.

According to Casale, SQUIRES is a program that shows young men what's in store for them if they don't change their ways. She said that bringing the youngsters into San Quentin for a day in prison "is one of the most satisfying things I've ever done."

"We are interested in trying

the SQUIRES mentors.

In Receiving and Release, the youth are given a verbal orientation on the intake process, which for actual inmates would include an unclothed body search, in addition to a number of other steps.

They get a bag lunch with a bologna or peanut butter sandwich before going on a tour of the prison, including a talk at the Condemned Row entrance door. By the end of the tour, which includes lockup in a cell, most of the kids say they do not want to end up living here.

Not too long ago, the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation brought kids into the SQUIRES program. The foundation formed nine years ago following the shooting death of its namesake, Terrance Kelly. To deal with his grief, Landrin Kelly, Terrance's father, formed the foundation with the purpose of encouraging young people to make better choices.

Landrin Kelly and his wife, Mary, run the foundation. Mary said the program started as an after-school activity program. The foundation offers homework assistance programs, violence prevention programs, a computer lab and a creative art class.

"We also have a culinary program so we can teach them to make a quick meal for themselves," Mary said.

Offering life skills, including a high achievers program, the foundation aims to help young men and women have a safe future by staying out of violent situations. We want them to be "more conscious of life and the consequences of their decisions," said Mary.

Hector Garcia, a group leader at the foundation, says he really loves working with the young men and women. It's "just a God-given gift, being able to work with the community in this way," said Garcia. He added that everyone could benefit from this experience. Recently the University of California at Berkeley football squad came to SQUIRES for a truth-or-consequences session.

"One of the guys I talked to had a clean record until he was 17 years old. He made a bad decision one night, and he's been here for 25 years," said Cal quarterback Jared Goff. "It shows how blessed we are to have the lives we have."

Another sponsor, the Novato Rotary Club, regularly sends kids to the SQUIRES program. Larry Levy, a long-time Rotarian, has been escorting young men to the SQUIRES program for many years. Levy said that one of his objectives is to create a SQUIRES program at other California prisons so that youth counselors, social workers and parents throughout the state can access the prison experience as an additional tool.

Terry Pace of the T&T House of Champions in Oakland operates a group home focusing on safety, structure, life skills and love.

"The kids come to San Quentin with a hard shell and the SQUIRES mentors get them to open up," she said. Pace says the men start a "process of feeling." For some of the youngsters, it's the first time.

Jack Jacqua of the Omega Boys Club is a well-known staple of the SQUIRES mentoring meetings. Jacqua has been working with troubled youngsters in the San Francisco area for more than 30 years. He works with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and the court system to provide a safe and stable program for youngsters who need mentoring.

Jacqua said that the San Quentin inmate mentors are better counselors than the ones in the free world. He said it's great to see how the youngsters open up when talking with the SQUIRES mentors. He points to the need to talk about feelings and says, "If the prisoners can talk about their feelings, then why wouldn't the kids."

-By Ted Swain



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Lt. Rudy Luna briefing at-risk kids coming into San Quentin



Photo by Raphaela Casale

After a long day of mentoring the youth, SQUIRES members hand out state issued lunch



Photo by Raphaela Casale

SQUIRES members addressing the youth from inside the cell of Donner section

Romania 'Mana' Jaundoo Expresses The Importance Of Working Inside S. Q.

Almost as soon as Romania "Mana" Jaundoo came to work at San Quentin, she was asked to become a sponsor for a youth-diversion workshop. She said she really likes working with the inmate mentors who volunteer for the program because they do so much good.

"They really pour their heart into helping young men," Jaundoo said. "It's a real team feeling working with these men. They're so dedicated."

Jaundoo co-sponsors SQUIRES with Raphaela Casale.

"The point of SQUIRES is to communicate with the young men who come to the work-shops," Jaundoo said. "I feel lucky to be part of that process."

"The SQUIRES mentors have such resolve. It isn't often you see a grown man cry. The mentors and the kids keep it real in these workshops."

Referring to how Jaundoo works with the kids, mentor Rasheed Lockheart, 36, said she "gives them a real sense of accountability, but she does it with compassion."

Officially, Jaundoo is a correctional case records analyst for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Prior to CDCR, Jaundoo was



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Romania "Mana" Jaundoo

a cosmetologist. However, she said that since 18 years of age she wanted to be involved in law enforcement.

"I was doing some volunteer work over a weekend, and ran into a lady I knew," Jaundoo said. The friend told her that CDCR was hiring.

"All my family is in law en-

forcement, and I have always seen it as a good thing," she said. "It seemed like it was meant to be. It all happened so quickly."

She submitted an application and was hired a couple of months later, she said.

"I was excited to take the job," Jaundoo said. "I thought I would be scared but I was totally up to the challenge. It's everything I thought it would be."

She said that when she began working in the prison system, there were several things that surprised her — particularly the degree of segregation between the races.

"That was really a shock," she said. "We've come a long way on the streets, but in prison it's really bad."

Jaundoo says working at San Quentin has lived up to all her expectations regarding her level of responsibilities. Her work involves calculating facts and figures and there's a lot of training through headquarters.

She is married to a San Quentin Officer and they make a "husband and wife team," she said.

Although her job and the SQUIRES program bring her in contact with many inmates, she said she's never concerned for her safety and sometimes feels safer in San Quentin than she does in the free world.

"I'm very comfortable in

here. On the outside, I am always alert to my surroundings. On the streets, I always have my guard up," she said.

Jaundoo said that she wouldn't have made the many accomplishments with SQUIRES without the grooming and foresight of Correctional Officer E. Pulliam and Correctional Counselor II, M. Rodesillas. "They had faith in me," she said. "They recognized that this was a calling for me before I knew it."

-By Ted Swain



Photo by Raphaela Casale

About Face Counselor tours the prison



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Miguel Quezada addresses the youth about life on Death Row



Photo by Raphaela Casale

SQUIRES sponsors Sgt. David and Joseph Robinson



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter educates the youth



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Vinh Nguyen on the fifth tier of Donner section counseling the youth

CDCR Puts Spotlight on Gender-Responsive Strategies

By Krissi Khokhobashvili
CDCR Public Information Officer

Women are different from men. While this may seem like a simple statement, it's a fact many people, businesses and organizations have long ignored. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), however, takes the needs of female offenders seriously, understanding how gender-responsive strategies are vital to reducing recidivism.

This was the basis of the Gender Responsive Strategies Conference, held recently in Folsom. CDCR welcomed corrections officials, stakeholders and employees from headquarters and California's three female prisons: Central California Women's Facility (CCWF), California Institution for Women (CIW) and Folsom Women's Facility (FWF). The two-day event gave insight into the work CDCR is doing to rehabilitate female offenders, from health care and programming to parole and re-entry services.

Jay Virbel, Associate Director, Female Offender Programs and Services, said the intent of the conference is not only to gauge CDCR's success so far, but to look to the future and how the department will continue to help women succeed.

"It takes everyone in this room to make that happen," he said, "from the community, to the leaders, to the academics, all the way through. It takes all of us. Thank you for wanting to participate. Thank you for taking time to participate and making this meaningful."

Participants were invited to tour FWF. Correctional officers and program directors led groups throughout the institution, where they met inmates furthering their education and gaining tangible job skills through the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA).



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Inmate Danilla Espiritu is training this dog through the Canine Companions for Independence program at Folsom Women's Facility

A group of inmates at FWF are training dogs through Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization providing service dogs to people who can't otherwise afford them. The puppies, Penley and Nieve, were a hit with the FWF tour groups.

CALPIA's headquarters are just steps away from FWF, and women in the construction program there have been hard at work installing a modular building, including pouring the foundation and creating a park-like area in front.

On the second day of the conference, Shannon Swain, Deputy Chief Superintendent, Office of Correctional Education, emphasized the importance of getting the right inmate in the right program at the right time, and having a variety of programming available makes this possible. The biggest lie in the world, she told the audience to much laughter, is "one size fits all."

"The same is absolutely true about programs and about edu-

cation," she added. "We have 35 individual (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)-accredited schools with principals and staff out there, teaching academic and Career Technical Education every day. Those types of CTE programs include everything — building maintenance, carpentry, electrical, small engine repair ... there are many opportunities for people in our prisons to get an education if they want one."

Working alongside re-entry programs is the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), which has specialized programs in place for supervising female parolees. Maritza Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Administrator of DAPO, said the department's practices have evolved from surveilling offenders and re-arresting violators to supporting parolees in their efforts to not return to prison.

Rodriguez discussed the HEAL Initiative (Housing, Employment and Linking services), a partnership between DAPO and the Division of Rehabilitative Programs created to reduce female offender recidivism. Components include pre-parole classes at Re-Entry Hubs, Female Offender Treatment and Employment Programs, specialized caseloads to address unique re-entry challenges for females and statewide staff training in gender responsiveness. These efforts, Rodriguez said, are paying off.

"We have a huge uptick in how many parolees we have in really good programming," she said. "We were kind of in this business of just getting them to the door; now we're in the business of trying to keep them in the door."

CDCR staffers aren't the only ones helping women change their lives. The conference included several people who have made it their life's work to help women. Dr. Stephanie Covington, PhD, LCSW, of the Institute for Relational Development and Center for Gender and Justice, developed the Beyond Violence program at CCWF and CIW.

Beyond Violence employs the Social-Ecological Model used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to

understand violence, as well as by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) research on women in prison. This four-level model of violence prevention considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community and societal factors and addresses the issues that put women at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence.

Covington told conference attendees it is a myth women are becoming more violent. She said the perception exists because of changes in policies and the justice system which are over-highlighted by the media. But it doesn't mean they don't exist.

"The majority of women who are incarcerated for violent, aggressive crimes," she said, "are women who themselves have been victims of violence."

Virginia Dunstone, Executive Director of Women 4 Change, is the creator of LifeScripting, an 80-hour workshop at CCWF in which female offenders analyze their behaviors and choices. Dunstone asked the audience how many of them spoke English. When everybody raised her hand, she asked how many of them have been told to stop speaking English, a language

most learned in childhood. The room was quiet.

"You don't tell yourself to stop speaking the language you learned," she said. "And yet we learn every single belief solidly, in our childhood, and we get up day after day telling people, 'Just stop your behavior.' Behavior has to be recognized before it can be changed."

More than 600 women have gone through the program at CCWF, Dunstone said, with 550 on the waiting list. Training will be conducted soon to expand the program statewide, as women have let CDCR know the program has changed how they think about themselves and how they communicate with others, including their families.

"Because of the things I've learned in this class, I am going to lead a positive, more empowered life," one inmate wrote about participating in LifeScripting. "This class has also taught me how to be a better mother, sister, granddaughter, etc., when I parole. I am now in charge of my own life."

Dunstone said it's all about information.

"They don't need me, they need information, and when that information affects them, they talk," Dunstone said. "It happens with so many of your programs. Because you care about women — they know it. And they go and sign up and tell everybody, 'Please go to the program, it will serve you.'"

Dr. Barbara Owen, PhD, helped CDCR revise its Gender Responsive Strategies training, which is required for all correctional and institutional staff working in female facilities. She said research has proven time and again such strategies, combined with programming such as Beyond Violence, work.

"Women are not men," she said. "And I think we know that from our own lives — I think everyone who works in women's facilities knows they're different than male facilities. We now have the evidence, which we kind of knew already, that gender-responsive practices lead not only to improved outcomes, but vastly improved outcomes."



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

A tour group learns about the California Prison Industry Authority's Green Valley Training Center located near Folsom Women's Facility

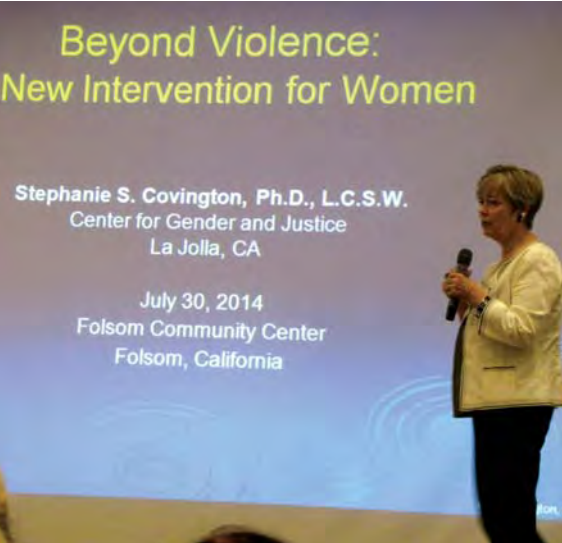


Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Dr. Stephanie Covington shares information about the Beyond Violence program she developed that helps female offenders work through their own trauma to understand how to make positive choices

By Larry Stiner Jr.
Contributing Writer

Recently, I ran into a childhood friend and asked what he'd been up to. "Just came back from another funeral," he answered. I shook my head, wondering what violent act had cursed our community this time.

You see, for many in South Los Angeles, it is more common to hear about death by the gun than by natural causes.

"I'm tired of seeing these young brothers buried," he added before I could ask the details about another inner-city life cut way too short. Actually, I didn't need to ask. I was sure it was just a different version of a story I knew all too well: The temporary silence of the night is interrupted by automatic gunfire.

A black male body drops. Loud cries of despair bounce against angry shouts for retaliation. Faint sounds of sirens

A Story I Knew All Too Well

An 'OG's' Perspective

grow louder as the emergency vehicles close in on the scene. A sudden beam of light from the hovering police helicopter turns the dark street into an eerily bright spot on the city map. Soon, yellow caution tape sets the boundaries and, eventually, a white sheet covers the lifeless victim. Disturbingly, the triggerman could be a gang banger, a neighborhood watchman or a police officer. And lately, the lines between them seem to have gotten more blurry.

When my friend sighed, my thoughts transitioned from the people directly involved in this type of community violence to those on the sideline who witness it by sight or sound.



Larry Stiner Jr.

What goes through the young, impressionable mind of a little girl who constantly hears the sounds of gang-related gunshots just outside her bedroom window? What

is the teenaged boy feeling while huddled with his friends at school asking if any of them heard about the Florida kid who was shot and killed on his way home from buying a bag of Skittles?

And what about the pain of the parents whose young son, despite being unarmed and having his hands up, was shot multiple times and killed in the street by an officer of the law?

With tragedies like these being witnessed, I am not surprised that more and more people from the inner cities are being diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), despite having never ventured near a battlefield. Then again, we did see

police in military vehicles with roof-mounted machine guns ready to shoot as they patrolled the streets of Ferguson, Mo.

We did see camouflage-clad police snipers pointing laser-scoped rifles at unarmed citizens who assembled to protest the excessive force a policeman used. Though on a smaller scale, I think this is not unlike the experience of many citizens on the sideline in the war zones of Iraq, Afghanistan and Gaza.

As my friend walked away, I wondered how a lifetime of tragic events in the "hood" had affected him. I thought of myself and some of the things I had seen growing up in the inner city. And I contemplated ways to lessen the likelihood of our children and their children becoming a part of a story I knew all too well.

This guest column is by Larry Stiner Jr., the eldest son of Watani Stiner.

Half-Mad Hero Battles Big Baddie

By SQ Reviews

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows is a movie that entertains, but its plot is close to slipping into absurdity.

Professor James Moriarty (Jared Harris), the most brilliant criminal in Europe, murders and buys his way into control of key business industries, so he can start a world war. His endgame is to sell guns and cotton — yes, cotton — to both sides.

The movie is directed by Guy Ritchie, who pits the half-mad mind of Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) against the half-sane mind of Moriarty in a cat-and-mouse game that unfolds in Europe during the Victorian era.

Rahsaan Thomas defended the story's plausibility. To a prisoner who grew up hearing stories about how the CIA flooded inner cities with drugs while the government made a business

MOVIE REVIEW

out of fighting drugs, the story is not far-fetched. "After watching Bush use the wars after 9/11 to feed Halliburton's pockets," Thomas said, "this movie screams plausible."

It is difficult to argue with Thomas' experience. The plot, however, feels shallow, not because of what occurs, but because of why events occur and the character that makes them happen. Moriarty is wealthy, but if he succeeds in his schemes without being executed for treason, he will have ... he will be ... wealthy. We expect evil genius to make better risk-reward assessments. We would have liked the movie more if iconic genius had spawned a plan with aims more original than money.

Fortunately, talented actors salvage the plot. Downey and

Jude Law continue with the chemistry that helped the success of the first *Sherlock Holmes*. Downey plays the stimulant-abusing, self-centered gentleman with charm, and Law convincingly affects long-suffering love for a friend who is both ridiculous and deeply flawed.

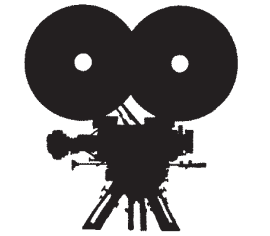
Jared Harris inhabits Moriarty and transforms any scene that lingers on him. He radiates malevolent power through an aloof demeanor, and his smile imparts the feeling that one is sinking in quicksand.

When SQ Reviews met to discuss *A Game of Shadows*, one of the points of contention was the film's historical inaccuracies. Tommy Winfrey was the biggest proponent of the film's right to set aside historical accuracy. "It's not a historical movie,"

Winfrey said. "It's supposed to be attention-grabbing, and the scenes do that."

Winfrey found little support for his position. Most of us belong to the prison demographic that reads a lot, and we can get indignant when we feel like our screenwriters are not taking the time to read at least an encyclopedia before writing a story of Victorian England. To Winfrey and the film's credit, it turns out the rest of us need to read a book on the steampunk genre, which is the setting for *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*.

Steampunk is a subgenre of speculative fiction that posits an alternate reality where steam instead of fossil fuel became Western civilization's preeminent power source. A hallmark of this genre is a more advanced level of technology than would otherwise be associated with a given era. Though Victorian alternate history settings are common, steampunk is not limited



to this era.

Other movies from the steampunk genre include 2011's *Three Musketeers*, starring Orlando Bloom, and *Wild West*, starring Will Smith.

We averaged out our ratings, and on a scale of one to five can-teen items, the film rated two and a half bags of potato chips. Though opinions conflicted, we all agree that if you like to watch trees explode in slow motion, you will like *A Game of Shadows*.

Contributors: *Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Erin O'Connor, Juan Meza, Miguel Quezada, Rahsaan Thomas and Tommy Winfrey*

Historical Account of One Guard's Career

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Imagine sitting in a waiting room, and you pick up this over-sized beautiful looking coffee-table book. You open it up and read about a horrific murder. This scraggly faced guard stares at you and you then realize—this is the beginning of a journey, you never expected.

Reading and seeing what's contained in this historical account makes an inmate think about doing time in that *fearful* place verses this *programming* place—it's San Quentin.

Detailed anecdotes, beginning with George Jackson, tell known stories from another perspective—analysis I never knew or read about. *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* is fresh, at least in my limited learned mind.

Nevertheless, it seems a bit eerie seeing these large print

BOOK REVIEW

black and whites, knowing the violent history of San Quentin, its grave yard, the walls, and Golden sitting with his side arm—a .357 magnum.

Golden has his take on convicts, as he calls us, and prison life, including the food he admits to like and eat. Big difference for me, as this food has turned me into a quasi-vegetarian. All the same, Golden's perception about the ins and outs of prison life is interesting and fascinating, even remarkable in its attention-grabbing style.

He calls the Adjustment Center the Dungeon of Death, a place back then where correctional officers, "who through the unfortunate fate found themselves sentenced by

a vindictive administration to work."

Once Upon a Time at San Quentin gets to some criticisms about the criminal justice system:

Self centered and arrogant 'Johnny Law' believes what happens on the streets should totally consume on-duty prison guards, while street police have little or no concept of life in prison. Worse still, judges, prosecutors and juries have condemned these hapless California State victims to the living hell called San Quentin.

The account, *If you Build It, They Will Come* is more criticism, this time aimed at the Pennsylvanian Quakers who "had a bad idea" when they decided to "put these long metal



bars on all the windows."

Golden makes his point clear in *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin*:

"The focus of true prison reform must be on seven groups of people, both in prison and on the streets, listed by social importance.

- 1) Street victims of violent crime.
- 2) Juries.
- 3) Tax Payers.

- 4) Prison Correctional Staff.
 - 5) Innocent Inmates, in prison and wrongly convicted of crime.
 - 6) Prison Inmates who are victims of violent crime while imprisoned.
 - 7) Guilty incarcerated Inmates.
- Failure to recognize all seven of these categories will eventually lead to a breakdown in all social cohesion."
- That being said, Golden has his own radical ideas about fixing penal problems in America, including the use of a firing squad to execute the guilty within 30 days of sentencing. I guess many of the guilty subject to a firing squad would be putting off their sentencing indefinitely.
- Editor's Note: *San Quentin News* endorses *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* because its sales are directly tied to donations that help print and distribute newspapers to inmates who otherwise would not be able to read all about it.

Arts & Entertainment

Sudoku Corner

7		8		5				9
5	1				9	2		
9					1			3
		3		2		7		6
4		7		6		3		
1				5				7
		4	2				3	5
3				9		8		2

1	8	6		5	2			
		5		6			8	
3		4		1		5		
	4							5
8		3		2		4		7
5							3	
		7		3		8		9
	3			8		7		
			7	4		3	2	6

Snippets

Major League Baseball, manager Dusty Baker, led the San Francisco Giants to 103 wins in 1993. Unfortunately their record did not help them, they were defeated by the Atlanta Braves in the National League West race.

October brings the Halloween celebration for many Americans. The name Halloween originated from the word ‘Allhallows’ which is to honor all saints.

Nightmares often occur when evil spirits visit and haunt those that are asleep, according to folklore.

Stephen King has written 34 books that were turned into movies. He is the highest grossing living author. His films’ net gross is \$835.9 million.

The author Mary Shelley created Dr. Frankenstein as a young medical student who creates a monster which ended up destroying him.

Entertaining millions of viewers, the music video *Thriller* by singer Michael Jackson sold more than 900,00 units.

Resembling and appearing as a soul, spirit and demon, a ghost often visits the living.

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solution

4	8	6	5	9	3	1	7	2
5	7	2	4	8	1	3	9	6
3	1	9	7	6	2	8	5	4
7	4	3	9	1	6	5	2	8
2	6	8	3	5	4	7	1	9
1	9	5	8	2	7	4	6	3
9	2	7	1	4	8	6	3	5
6	3	4	2	7	5	9	8	1
8	5	1	6	3	9	2	4	7

9	7	8	6	3	4	2	1	5
1	5	6	8	2	9	7	3	4
2	3	4	5	7	1	8	6	9
4	6	5	7	8	2	3	9	1
7	1	3	9	4	5	6	8	2
8	2	9	3	1	6	4	5	7
3	8	2	1	9	7	5	4	6
6	9	7	4	5	8	1	2	3
5	4	1	2	6	3	9	7	8

From Around the World is a new section in *San Quentin News*. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany, Africa and Dominican Republic have answered the call. Let’s hear from the rest of the world.

Featured Photo by P. Jo



Brooklyn Bridge

Transparency Lacking in Private Prisons

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

The increasing use of private prisons in the United States has created a growing problem: contracting away transparency and government accountability by federal and state governments, said a reform advocacy report.

A recent report by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) criticized the trend of privatizing prisons by the federal and state governments that results in a lack of public access to the records maintained by the outsourced prisons.

"Privatizing entities once under exclusive governmental control has eliminated a key component of public accountability – access to information that explains how the prisons are being run, at what cost and the extent to which they are engaging in

abuses that deprive prisoners of their basic civil liberties," proclaimed the CREW report.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Records of federal public prisons are maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Prisons, and are subject to the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Similarly, records of state public prisons are maintained by the respective state departments of corrections and are subject to the state open records laws, such as the California Public Records Act.

The FOIA and the states' open records laws provide the public with a mechanism to access governmental records, which promotes transparency of the public services and accountability of the government bodies that are responsible for providing the services.

"By contrast, private prisons

are not subject to the FOIA and generally are not subject to state open records laws," the CREW report said. "... As a result, the public is denied access to basic information that would provide a full picture of the workings and conditions of private prisons."

CREW REPORTS

According to the CREW report, 18.6 percent of the federal prison population and more than 7 percent of state prison populations were incarcerated in private facilities as of Dec. 31, 2012. Corrections Corporations of America (CCA), the nation's largest private prison company, and GEO Group, the world's largest, monopolize the federal prison market, with CCA also running 53 facilities from state and local governments, the report said.

The CREW report detailed how CCA and GEO Group –

who as for-profit entities serve the interests of "shareholders and the bottom line rather than the public" – have strategies to get and stay where they are today. The have lobbied heavily against any legislation that might have threatened their interests; provided generous campaign contributions to congressional and state political candidates, parties and other entities; and used philanthropic giving as a way to curry influence, the report showed.

PPIA

The private prison industry has lobbied successfully against the passage of five versions of the Private Prison Information Act (PPIA), which would have subjected private prisons to the FOIA. "This legislation has never been voted out of committee in the House of Representatives," said the CREW report.

The private prison industry also has successfully blocked attempts by the Arizona Legislature to make the state's private prison records public, the report noted.

The CREW report proposed these solutions:

- Enactment of a statute like the PPIA and similar state legislation.
- Congressional hearings to monitor private prisons.
- Legislation other than amendment of the FOIA that requires disclosure.
- Authorization of data collection from private prisons by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Congressional oversight.
- Investigation and studies by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General at DOJ and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Grassroots efforts.

Proposition 36 Inspires Further Sentencing Reform

'We might have to look more holistically at the penal code to see if it makes sense, to see if some of the structures of sentencing are too harsh, especially with various kinds of enhancements'

A Stanford University law professor reaffirmed the need for further reform of California's sentencing laws in an interview held on the anniversary of Proposition 36, the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012.

California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36 in November 2012. Proposition 36 amended the Three Strikes Law so a third strike,

which carries a 25-year-to-life sentence, must generally be a serious or a violent felony. It also provides for petitions for reduction of sentence by prisoners who are serving life sentences for crimes that no longer qualified as third strikes.

"The interesting thing about Proposition 36 is that it was a major structural change in the penal code, in the sentencing

law. I do think that, and the governor has indicated this, we might have to look more holistically at the penal code to see if it makes sense, to see if some of the structures of sentencing are too harsh, especially with various kinds of enhancements," said Robert Weisberg in an interview with "The California Report" show on KQED last November.

Weisberg is a professor of law and co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center.

When Proposition 36 passed, it was the first time that voters, anywhere in the United States, passed a retroactive sentence reduction for inmates, according to Scott Shafer of "The California Report."

"If you look around the nation over the last 15 years or

so, there's been what you might call a fair amount of political buyer's remorse about the extremely harsh sentencing regimes that were instituted," Weisberg said, "...and we've had a lot of initiatives that had led to reductions in incarceration in other places."

Indeed, in recent years Congress has stepped up efforts to reform the federal mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws — having passed the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and introduced the Justice Safety Valve Act and the Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013.

Mandatory minimum drug sentences have significantly contributed to overcrowding and racial disparities in the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission and a recent report by the Congressional Research Service. BOP is operating at about 140 percent of capacity.

Similarly, the California Blue Ribbon Commission in its 2005 report on corrections identified the draconian and confusing sentence enhancement laws as the primary cause of overcrowding in California's prisons and urged the governor and the legislature to reform them. Not coincidentally, the state corrections system is running at about 140 percent capacity, dropping from over 180 percent after federal court orders.

Also interviewed on "The California Report" show was Bonnie Dumanis, district attorney of San Diego County. Of the more than 130 prisoners released to San Diego County under Proposition 36 only two have reoffended. Dumanis cautioned, however, "I'm really worried that with the Realignment, and all that's going on with limited resources, that there is a definite public safety risk."

–By Chung Kao

Study Reveals Problems Ex-Offenders Have Finding Employment After Prison

'More support of government efforts by voters would help'

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

With the number of jobs scant and new job creation scarce nationwide, future employment for some ex-offenders is harder than it is for others, according to a recent study.

Finding work after prison "is not equally distributed across race and ethnic groups," according to the study *Criminal Stigma, Race, Gender, and Employment: An Expanded Assessment of the Consequences of Imprisonment for Employment*. The authors of the study are Scott H. Decker, Ph.D., Cassia Spohn, Ph.D. Natalie Ro Ortiz, M.S., and Eric Hedberg, Ph.D., who used funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

It is more difficult for African-Americans and Hispanics to find a job after being released from prison than for whites, the study finds. "Further complicating the problem is the fact that these two minority groups comprise the largest and fastest-growing segment of the prison population."

Gainful employment is a major component for a sound re-entry, the study finds. How-

ever, what is missing are the particular skills ex-offenders need to meet market demands. Additionally, ex-offenders suffer from their criminal past, as researchers have discovered a symbiotic relationship between criminality and the unskilled worker.

The lack of gainful employment is also a major concern to public safety officials, according to the study. Without access to resources that will lead to the training needed to compete in today's job market, ex-offenders are likely to return to criminal behavior, various studies show. The data shows that men and women who have a prison record do far worse attaining gainful employment than those without a record.

What these men and women need is vocational training as well as training in online application processes and creating a resume, the study concludes.

The lack of community involvement also factors into high percentages of recidivism, the study shows.

The community needs to become more aware that men and women in prison will be returning to society at some point.

There needs to be a better understanding and willingness by community members to give ex-offenders a chance to succeed.

Various efforts are underway to ease hindrances against ex-offenders. One taking root nationwide is a campaign called Ban-the-Box. The campaign stops employers from asking an applicant to disclose whether they have a felony conviction on job applications.

"More support of government efforts by voters would help to begin finding resolution to this problem," said Kim Richman, Ph.D, professor of sociology and legal studies, at the University of San Francisco. "Our local business owners and their employees need to be willing to give these men and women opportunities to succeed. They set the tone as to whether or not a chance should be given to those returning home. Ban-the-Box is a step in that direction."

Ban-the-Box has been implemented in several cities in California, including Oakland and Richmond.

However, Richman noted, "There is a lack of policies supporting these efforts, and there

are laws that place barriers on development of these programs that really don't need to be there."

Aside from legislative barriers, there is the issue of community acceptance of these programs in their neighborhoods. Re-entry programs, while seen as a major conduit for returning ex-offenders and their successful re-socialization, often must deal with the indifference of the community, the study says.

San Francisco has assembled a Re-entry Council to assist ex-offenders once released from jail or prison. The council consists of the mayor, district attorney, chief public defender, sheriff and chief of police, a judicial appointee and the public health representative.

San Francisco city has implemented programs that begin with stable living conditions for ex-offenders. Ex-offenders are taught how to prepare resumes. Employment is sought for the ex-offender through a network of professional and private entrepreneurs.

Recently the County of Santa Clara began a similar program using the Reentry Council of San Francisco's model.

‘What Steps Have You Made to Take Personal Responsibility in Your Life?’

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The autumn season is in full swing. The World Almanac reports the month of October has the following national observances: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month and National Popcorn Poppin' Month.

Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Friday, Oct. 3, Columbus Day is on Monday, Oct. 13, and Halloween is on Friday, Oct. 31.

After October, only two months remain before we close out 2014. Similarly, many of the men who have served decades in prison may be getting closer to the door to freedom if they can convince the parole board that they are not "currently dangerous."

Mainliners who have served the minimum terms of their life sentences with the possibility of parole prepare themselves to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings. Many chose to rehabilitate themselves through workshops offered by ILTAGs such as the San Quentin TRUST, Alliance for

Asked On The Line

Change, Kid CAT or ELITE.

Others took college courses offered through Patten University, Coastline College or Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Some participated in Peer Health Education training offered through Centerforce or learned to understand and curb their violent tendencies, manage their anger or heal from the trauma of child abuse through various groups offered by the Insight Prison Project.

Men on the mainline recently were asked, "What steps have you made to take personal responsibility in your life?"

George "Mesro" Coles-El thought this was a great question. "First, I had to inform myself of my own ignorance. This was the biggest hurdle because arrogance is strong in the male ego. Once that happened, I began making amends with my family and friends as best I could while becoming more of a person of service — helping others help me be a better man.

In doing so, I have learned that I am the sole force responsible for everything that happens to me. No one else was responsible for my actions except me, in that no one can influence my decisions and life unless I let them. The best step to take in being responsible for my life is making the best choices I can in life. Peace."

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez said, "I have taken groups and utilized the skills taught in each group to communicate better with my family. I am able to talk with my family about issues we had difficulty talking about when I was growing up. This broke the cycle. Today, I share with them all of the skills I have learned while in prison."

Tim Thompson said, "I have used education as one way of taking personal responsibility. Responsibility is not just saying I am sorry and that I will not do it again. Responsibility for me is also teaching others so they will not make the same mistakes that I made. Educa-

tion gives me the information and ability to not only recognize my faults, but to also show others why my actions were wrong."

Teddy Fields said, "I have quit blaming others for my woes and have learned the concept of accountability. I have come to realize that I am the sole dictator of my happiness and blaming others will not contribute to a wholesome life."

Terrell Merritt said, "First of all, I had to make a choice of what direction I wanted my life to take. Once I did that, I began to try to match my actions with my intentions. Now I try to surround myself with like-minded individuals in order to strengthen my resolve to continue to move forward. I own my own mistakes and work to identify my shortcomings in order to turn them into strengths."

Randy Maluenda said, "I live as if I will die tomorrow, but I learn as if I will live forever. Tomorrow is not guaranteed,

so I live and breathe the serenity prayer: accept the unchangeable, try to change what I can and have the wisdom to know the difference in this adventurous life, with God's help."

Leroy Lucas stated, "The first step that I took was attaining my GED. Getting that allowed me to understand the concept of accomplishment. I also thought honestly about my past actions and how I could redeem my mistakes. I began to take the initiative and read self-help books, which led me to take various self-help classes. Now I am a straight-A college student."

David Le was poetic in his response. He said, "When I wake up, I ask myself: What have I left undone? When I go to sleep, I ask myself: What have I done?"

Jesus Flores said, "I had to learn to respect authority and follow the rules. When I was young, I didn't want to listen and I broke the rules because I did not respect authority. I also learned that no matter how tough I thought I was, there was always someone tougher than me. I also got older and learned that it's better to make friends than enemies, because you never know where you are going to end up."

Obituary: Honoring the Life Of Russell Mefford

Russell Mefford died of cancer at 6:57 p.m. on Aug. 22.

His devoted wife, Denise, lost a husband. His three sons — Andrew, Austin and Adrian — lost a father. His family lost a member. "As a result of Russell's death, San Quentin will be a less happy place," Michael Wolke said.

Wolke said he met Russ, 50, on the Level III yard at Solano. They came to San Quentin on the same bus in 2009 and struck up a friendship that Wolke says carried them happily through these last years.

"Russ was an honorable and principled man who carried himself in a dignified way,"



Russell Mefford

ing (in their cell), but also his presence and humor."

Russ's co-workers at his prison job where he was a welder in the maintenance department said he would be missed.

His many friends from throughout the years of his incarceration will also miss him. Russ will be especially missed at San Quentin by the ones who hold him in a corner of their hearts.

"Russ, my friend, if there is nothing after this, it was a privilege to know you," Wolke said. "But if there is a place for the likes of us, well, I guess I will see you there. Rest in peace."



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From You!**

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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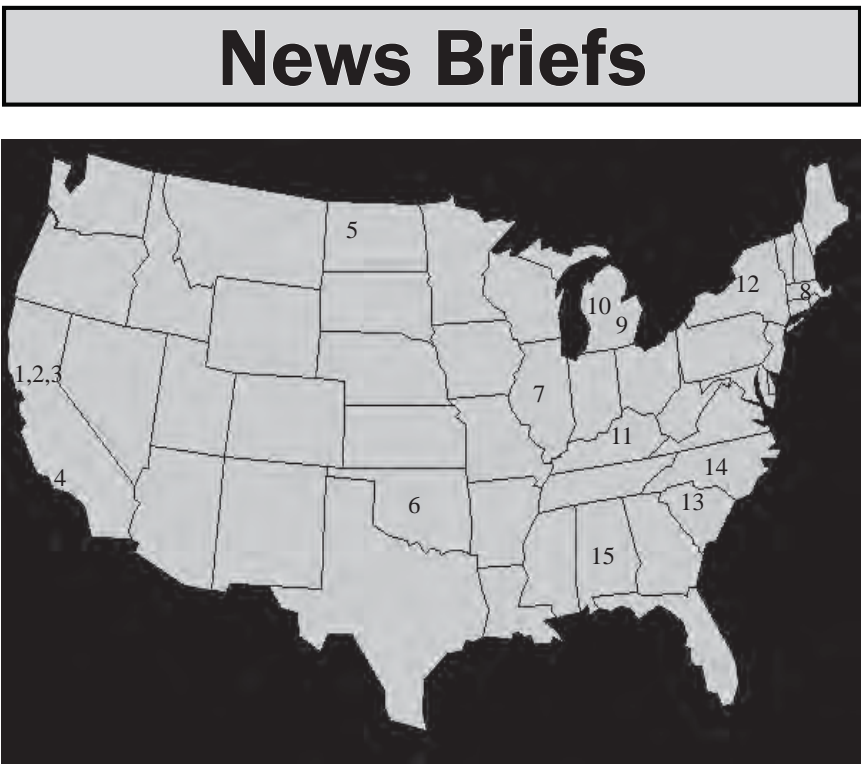
1. Sacramento—A bill designed to allow inmates in Security Housing Units to keep pictures and make a phone call after three months of good behavior died in the state Legislature because of concerns that Gov. Jerry Brown would veto it, said a representative for State Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, in a report by *Reuters*.

2. Sacramento—California lawmakers sent Gov. Jerry Brown a pair of bills to sign. The first bill would require law enforcement agencies to inform defendants when they have evidence that could be tested for DNA and allow judges to order DNA evidence to be run through the FBI’s database for a match, reports *The Associated Press*. The second bill would allow deliberating juries to consider a prosecutors’ failure to disclose information favorable to the defendant that would have supported reasonable doubt.

3. Sacramento— Corrections officials agreed to house mentally ill inmates in separate specialized housing units with more treatment, reports *The Associated Press*. The decision came after a federal judge ruled that treatment of the state’s mentally ill inmates violates constitutional safeguards against cruel and unusual punishment.

4. Long Beach—The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that deputies could not probe a detainee’s anal cavity without medical assistance, reports Nicole Flatow of *ThinkProgress*. Pulling things out of an individual’s body cavity without medical assistance poses particular danger to the inmate, the court concluded.

5. Williston, N.D.—Court delays are causing an increasing amount of detainees who are awaiting trial behind bars to



be in jail longer than the typical sentence for their alleged crimes, a county sheriff told the *Williston Herald*. The court delays result from the oil boom in North Dakota which has rapidly increased the population.

6. Oklahoma City—The *Oklahoma Observer*, the *Guardian US*, the national office and the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and freelance journalist Katie Fretland have filed a lawsuit contending that closing the blinds midway through the execution of Clayton D. Lockett kept the media, and by extension the public, from witnessing what they say is the most powerful governmental procedure: the taking of a life.

7. Peoria, Ill.—The housing

of 600 mentally ill inmates in segregated housing units at several prisons throughout the state prompted a doctor to testified in federal court that the Illinois is lagging behind in improving conditions to comply with a May 2013 lawsuit over the conditions, reports *The Associated Press*.

8. Chicopee, Mass.—A federal judge agreed with female inmates that their right to basic human dignity was violated when male guards routinely videotaped them during strip searches. The court ruled that the searches serve no legitimate purpose and therefore are unconstitutional, reports Ian Millhiser of *ThinkProgress*.

9. Detroit —“Michigan spends

more money on corrections than on higher education — about \$2 billion annually, or \$35,000 per prisoner,” according to a *Detroit News* editorial. It’s one of just a few states that continue to spend so much, despite data over the past several years that shows decreasing the number of people in prison correlates to decreased crime rates.

10. Kalkaska, Mich.—DNA testing cleared Jamie Peterson of the rape and murder of 68-year-old retired schoolteacher Geraldine Montgomery, reports *The Associated Press*. Peterson spent 16 years in prison before the DNA evidence cleared him of the crime.

11. Frankfort, Ky.—An alternative sentencing law for lower-

level drug crimes passed three years ago has helped reduce the state’s prison population and is saving the state money, reports *The Associated Press*. However, the law also gives drug offenders a way out of a rigorous two-year treatment program provided by a drug court. Kentucky’s Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr., is urging lawmakers to give offenders a reason to choose the drug court: erase their criminal charge if they complete the program.

12. New York—A federal judge has approved New York City’s \$41 million settlement with the five men who were wrongly convicted in the 1989 rape and beating of a Central Park jogger. Mayor Bill de Blasio called the settlement an “act of justice” that’s “long overdue,” reports *The Associated Press*.

13. Columbia, S.C. —The number of prisoners age 55 and older has more than doubled in the past decade, reports Cassie Cope of *The State*. About 9 percent of South Carolina inmates now are 55 or older. In 2013, the average cost to incarcerate an inmate in the state was \$16,542 a year, up from \$12,353 in 2003. The California cost is \$60,000 per inmate per year.

14. Raleigh, N.C.—Henry and James McCollum were freed after spending more than 30 years in prison for a murder that DNA evidence showed they didn’t commit, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

15. Montgomery, Ala.—An Alabama appeals court has ruled that a U.S. Supreme Court decision about juvenile murderers is not retroactive, reports *The Associated Press*. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Eighth Amendment forbids a sentence of mandatory life in prison without parole for juvenile offenders.

Mentally Ill Population in Jails and Prisons Is Increasing

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Jails and prisons have become America’s “new asylums” for the seriously mentally ill, a new survey concludes.

This situation was caused by the closing of mental hospitals and the failure to provide adequate community support, according to a joint survey by the Treatment Advocacy Center.

“The number of individuals with serious mental illness in prisons and jails now exceeds the number in state psychiatric hospitals tenfold,” the center’s April 2014 report stated.

The Los Angeles County Jail is *de facto* the largest “mental institution” in California and most of the time is in the running for the dubious honor of being the largest psychiatric institution in the nation, the center said.

The survey reported the increase of inmates with mental illness in California state prisons “from 19 percent in 2007 to 25 percent in 2012,” according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

“From the 1830s to the 1960s, we confined such individuals in

hospitals, in large part because there were no effective treatments available. Now that we have effective treatment available, we continue to confine these individuals but in prisons and jails where the treatments are largely not available,” the report says.

“We characterize seriously mentally ill individuals as having a thinking disorder, but surely it is no worse than our own.”

The report cited a 2013 *New York Times* story saying the suicide rate in California prisons is twice the national average.

On a recent visit to San Quentin’s mental health unit, the researcher reported he had to wear a protective suit and full mask to protect him from body fluids that might be thrown at him.

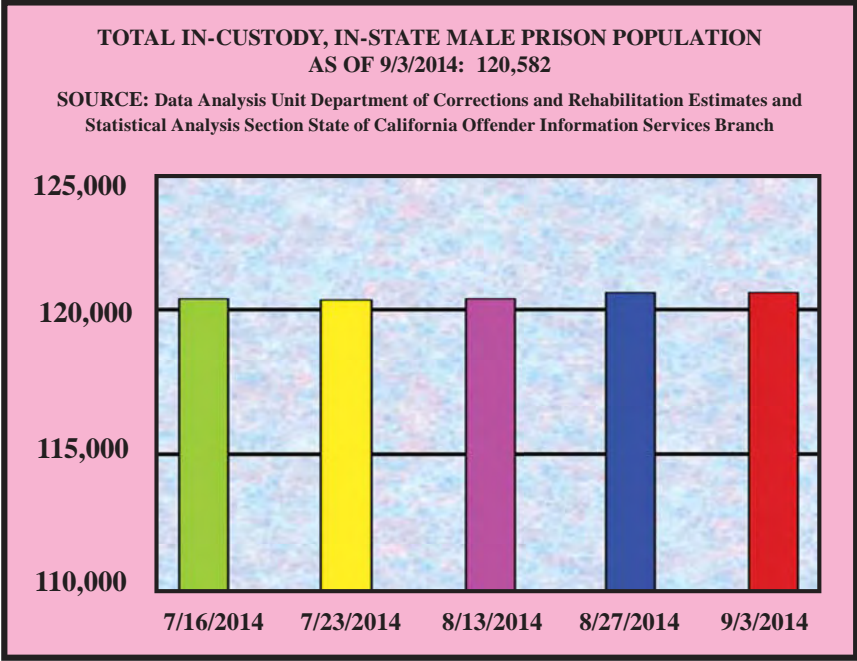
The survey cautioned that when released from jail, mentally ill inmates receive no aftercare.

One thing the survey cited that would improve the situation is the widespread use of assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), known as Laura’s Law, which has the potential to decrease the number of mentally ill people who end up in jails.

State law requires a judge’s approval before involuntary treatment is initiated. Such treatment requires that the inmate “is gravely disabled and

lacks the capacity to consent to or refuse treatment with psychiatric medications” or “is a danger to self or others if not medicated.”

The Advocacy Center strongly recommends appropriate treatment be provided for prison and jail inmates with serious mental illness.



Oldest Living N.Y. Yankee Attends Season Finale

SPORTS

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

San Quentin hosted the oldest living former New York Yankee at the season finale for the prison's inmate baseball teams, the Giants and A's.

The Giants won, 7-6, after old-timer Rugger Ardizioia was escorted to the mound by Giant Jeff Dumont and Athletic Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonnilla. Ardizioia threw the first pitch with all the players from both teams standing proudly behind him.

"I am proud to be asked to come to the final game and for, after all those years, being recognized and signing autographs," said Ardizioia.

Ardizioia was given a fancy black baseball bat as a gift in appreciation of his career and attendance. Public Information Lt. Sam Robinson, all the players, the coaches and even the correctional officers at the front gate who let the outside teams in signed the bat, said coach Reichardt.

Ardizioia pitched for the Yankees 1941-1942 until called to go to war in 1943. He's pitched against the likes of Ted Williams. After returning from World War II, he was sent from Yankee spring training to play for the Oakland A's.

Pacific Coast League, he said.

He proudly wears a gold-ring bearing the Yankee logo and carries a Yankee Season Pass from 1947.

"You had to show your card to get into the games or nobody would know who you were," said Ardizioia.

His Yankee salary was a then-generous \$5,000 a year. That's how much he paid for a house that would now be valued at around \$700,000-800,000, said Ardizioia with a smile.

Years ago, Ardizioia playing for visiting baseball teams in San Quentin, Folsom and Vacaville State Prisons.

"I miss playing here. We had some good games in the '50s," said the 94-year-old Ardizioia.

The A's jumped out with a 3-1 lead on the hot, sunny Saturday, but the Giants rallied in the third. Shon "Jahid" Ruffin led off with a single, followed by Richard Zorns, who smacked a double into left field. Then Anthony Sorrell, who's due to be released, playing his last game as an S.Q. Giant, was walked. Angelo Mecchi hit a two RBI shot that tied the score 3-3.

Mike Tyler got on base on a fielder's choice and Dumont walked. With two men on, Giant Christopher "Cuddy Bo" Smith knocked a shot all the way to the barbed wire fence for a three-run homer and 6-3 lead.

"It felt tremendous to come thru cause I've been slumping.



Photo by Sam Hearn

New York Yankee Rugger Ardizioia receives autographed bat from S.Q. Giants and A's players

My Coach and team told me to go yard and I came thru against our number one rival," said C. Smith.

The A's didn't go away. In the top of the ninth with the score 7-5 Giants, the A's started to rally back, but it was stopped by an umpire call.

The A's had a runner on third and Chris Marshall on first with two outs and Carlyle "Otter" Blake at bat. He banged a line drive straight down the first baseline that rolled deep

into right field. A run came in while Marshall and Blake ran the bases, but the umpire called Marshall out. "The ball hit the runner, automatic out," said the umpire.

"It did not hit me, but that was the call and the Giants earned the win. Tone (Sorrell) saved them today; he's the MVP," said Marshall.

"Well-fought ball game. Clutch hitting, great defensive on both sides. Probably one of the best games all year," Giants assistant coach Frankie Smith said about the three-hour and 50-minute battle.

Another old-timer in attendance was Lou Profumo. The East Bay native played in the minor leagues for the Red Sox, Pirates and Angeles. He's coached youths from 1972-93, including Steve Lubratich and Nick Rodriguez.

Also visiting was Clayton Worfolk, who directed a crew filming the game for a Heist Production documentary on San Quentin's baseball pro-

gram.

George Lavender covered the game for a National Public Radio piece to be aired on WBUR in Boston.

The pro veterans' attendance was secured during S.Q. baseball sponsor Steve Reichardt's search for information about his great-uncle, Sam Fenech. Fenech was signed to play pro for Oakland 1944-45; however, the backup catcher only played in a few games.

No one seemed to know much about Fenech except baseball historian Mark McCrae, who met Reichardt at a baseball card show. McCrae actually knew Reichardt's great-uncle and had the contracts for both years Fenech played for Oakland.

McCrae said he chanced upon the contracts after hearing they were saved from bulldozers about to tear down the old stadium in 1957.

McCrae invited Reichardt to his Annual Pacific Coast League Player and Family Reunion. There, Reichardt met Ardizioia, who used to be president of the Old-Timers Organization.

"There are hundreds of 85-year-olds cutting their lawns that played pro ball. They think guys won't remember them, but they are remembered," said McCrae.

"The season was a success. We had about 40-50 games with outside teams. All the teams were impressed with the program and they plan to come again next year," said sponsor Elliot Smith.

"If I could come in all year, I would," said Giants sponsor Mike Deeble. He's using the off-season to research training drills "so we can have a stronger team."

"I realized a lot of people here come from different backgrounds...it makes me realize not everybody has had it easy, but we're all on the same team," said Luke Murphy, a visitor at the Aug. 30 season finale.

Diego Bros Thump Hardtimers, 26-18

The visiting Diego Bros softball team beat the San Quentin Hardtimers, 26-18, after a double play stopped the Hardtimers cold.

The bottom of the sixth found the Hardtimers down, 19-12.

"I don't think it's enough. These guys can score in bunches. They're a good team," said Diego Bros coach Phil about the lead.

Diego Bros pitcher Jim Grove didn't feel safe with the seven-point lead either.

"It's scary. I'm terrified of Ke Lam," said Grove. "It can change any minute; you never know."

Shon "Jahid" Ruffin started a rally with a single. Michael "Hawkeye" Flemming followed with another. Then Ke Lam banged a homer off the Education Building roof, closing the score to 19-16.

"It's the vitamins!" Ke Lam joked. "It feels great to be able to contribute."

DuPriest Brown hit a single and stole third when a ball hit an outfielder in the knee. Windham kept the rally going with a double that made the score 19-17, Diego Bros.

"This team wakes up late, then crawls back into it; they never give up," Hardtimer coach Dan said.

Top of the seventh, the Diego Bros were held scoreless with a double play. The ball went straight at Flemming on the mound. He caught it and threw to Ke Lam at second, who completed the double



Photo by Sam Hearn

DuPriest Brown rounding third base

play to Cory Woods at first.

Bottom of the seventh, the Hardtimers weren't able to score and the game was scheduled to end, but it was still early and the Diego Bros agree to go nine.

The Diego Bros poured on more runs in the extra innings, including a two-run homer slammed by Sean "Captain" Morgan. Diego Bros increased the lead to 26-17 by the bottom of the ninth.

"You guys have a distinct home field advantage and I wanted to use it to my advantage," commented Morgan, smiling.

"These are the hardest guys to pitch to...Every one of these guys can hit a home run," said

Flemming. "They're my favorite team to pitch against 'cause you know they go hard every inning."

Windham hit two home runs during the game, but no runners were on base either time.

"I do what I can. My coach asked for a home run, so I gave it a try," said Windham.

Eric Post singled, followed by another hit by Caleb McClelland; however, C. Long hit right to shortstop Mike Bristow. Bristow fired the ball to John Tillman at second, who completed the double play to first base. That ended the Hardtimers' comeback attempt in the Aug. 29 game.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

Defending Tennis Champ Serves New Challengers

By **Michael Panella**
Journalism Guild Writer

and eliminated him in straight sets.

The finals matched up Paul Oliver, who defeated Terry Slaughter to advance, against Hunt. Hunt managed to beat Oliver in straight sets, winning 7-4 and 7-2 to maintain his status as the champion.

David Archer, another newcomer who played in the first match, squared off against two-time champion Paul Alleyne. Alleyne dominated Archer in straight sets, allowing his opponent to score two points in the second set.

In the second match, Slaughter upset the hard-hitting Al Lee to play against Oliver.

"I am happy to see the new players participating in our tournament and to see Troy Smith taking his game to the next level," said Ronnie Mohamed, captain of the San Quentin Inside Tennis Team.

Rick Hunt defeated some talented challengers to win the Don De Nevi Challenger Series Tennis Tournament.

Newcomer Troy Smith faced veteran Raymond Bodine for a spot in the semi-finals. Smith dropped the first set (9-7) but settled in and played some quality points in the Labor Day weekend event. Smith shook off the nerves and went to work. He won the next two sets (7-1, 7-3), giving Bodine no chance to advance.

"I'm just happy to have made it to the semifinals in my first tournament," Smith said after the win.

Next Smith faced Hunt, the champion from the last tournament during the Fourth of July weekend. Hunt exploited a few holes in Smith's game

Graced Out Practices Christianity Through Basketball

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Graced Out Youth Ministries held basketball competitions that brought San Quentin inmates together who don't normally go to church to see Christianity being practiced.

"Basketball and food bring people together. When they get here and see the unity and the camaraderie, then they will know we have more in common than what we thought," said Ferrari Moody, a Graced Out member.

Other Graced Out members include inmates Antoine Watie, Fanon Figgers, James Metters, Darell "Obadiah" Flowers, Jack Osby, Dwight Kennedy, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Marlon Beason and Lemar "Maverick" Harrison. The founders are Moody, Watie and Figgers.

Chaplin Mardi Jackson and church elder Derrick Holloway came up with the idea of Graced Out Ministries. They challenged the faithful young men "to do something different to bring the word to the youth," stated Metters.

One of the ways they responded was with basketball.

"The modern religious settings don't really identify with the youth today. Therefore, we came up with ideas that use common grounds to relate the word of God to the youth," said Metters.

"We want to show them that God hasn't forgotten them, and we are going to use any and all things at our disposal," said Watie.

"Our mission? If y'all won't come to church, we'll bring the church to y'all. God is everywhere," Moody said to the crowd during the first event last year.

The contests consisted of a three-on-three half-court elimination tournament, a three-point contest, a free-throw contest and a raffle, with canteen items as prizes.

Top winners of the basketball contest:

Three-on-three team (with one sub): Julio Saca, Quoc Chau, Phillip Brown and Terrance Horton overcame former S.Q. Warriors players Marcus Cosby,

Erick Nelson and current S.Q. King player Charles Sylvester in the final to win it all.

"It was fun. We were average ball players but ... if you have fundamental players that communicate, anything is possible," said P. Brown. "May the grace and glory be to God."

Jay Brown won both the free-throw and three-point competitions. He says he won the free-throw contest easily, hitting 14 of 15. The three-point contest went to sudden death against Larry "TY" Jones.

"I had to wear him down. I'm a set shooter!" J. Brown exclaimed. "It was a blessing. These guys put on a good show."

Using basketball works for P. Brown. "Sports is a stress release. It gets me through a lot of my hard times, especially basketball," he said.

"It was successful. I've started seeing many new brothers in church that were at last year's event," said Fanon Figgers.

"Here you see love – a sense you can be whoever you are, togetherness and unity," said Osby

about the Aug. 30 event.

"It feels good to give back like this. It connects me to people," said Flowers.

To reach those with violent pasts, the message has "to be raw, uncut and rugged. The youth are, at this moment, in such great and grave danger," said Watie. "There is violence in the streets, with many dying without a relationship with God."

"It's our goal as youth ministers to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the future that He has for them as productive men of God. It is meant for them as much as anyone else," Watie added.

"It's not about making an instant 360-degree change; it's



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jay Brown in a intermural game looking for the pass in bounds

about taking that first step, and allowing God to transform you," added Moody.

Graced Out meets in the Protestant Chapel one Friday every other month. The group often opens with Christian rappers Williams, Harrison, Beason and/or Metters. Graced Out invites all to "come and discover their true identity," said Metters.

NBA's Golden State Warriors Lose to Prisoners, 92-88

Continued from Page 1

autographs.

"This gives the guys something to look forward to," said Lt. Sam Robinson, San Quentin's public information officer. "Prison existence is mundane; these guys coming in here is nothing but uplifting."

The Golden State team included assistant coaches and former NBA players Luke Walton and Jarron Collins, Golden State General Manager Bob Myers, Johnny "Logo" West (Jerry West's son), Chris DeMarco, Nick Uren and Lacob.

The game remained close, ending in upset when the prisoners beat the group of former NBA players.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Lacob knocked down a three-pointer, bringing Golden State to within one point at 89-88.

With time running out, Lacob fouled Joshua Burton to stop the clock. Burton made both clutch free throws, leaving the score 91-88.

With 30 seconds left, Golden State fouled Burton again. This time he hit one free throw, giving San Quentin a four-point lead.

Walton then went for the three-pointer and missed. Anthony Ammons rebounded the ball for San Quentin. Myers, who led Golden State with 27 points, fouled him hard to stop the clock at :10.

"Bob Myers just committed his first felony with that foul there," joked San Quentin commentator Aaron "Huron" Taylor.

Ammons missed both free throws. With time running out and four points to recover, Golden State went for another three-pointer but missed, leaving San Quentin the winner at the buzzer.

"What makes basketball a beautiful sport is that it brings



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Luke Walton attempts to block Anthony Ammons shot while Jarron Collins and Bob Myers watch

us all together," said Golden State Warrior head coach Steve Kerr. "A mutual love of basketball connects us."

Active Golden State players Marreese "Mo" Speights, Ognjen Kuzmic and Festus Ezeli couldn't play in the game because they are under contract, but watched from the bench. Rookies Mitchell Watt from the University of Buffalo, Aaron Craft from Ohio State and James McAdoo from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, also attended. They are currently trying out for the team.

"I'm happy I can share with the prisoners," Ezeli said. "It's a humbling experience. Even in here, everybody is able to move on and find peace and happiness. This is a way we can help them serve their time."

The prisoners also enjoyed the event, which they have been looking forward to all year.

"This is the biggest event

yet," said inmate Robert Butler, general manager for the San Quentin team. "You have four generations of basketball players in here."

The game was full of highlights.

With two seconds left on the clock at the end of the first quarter, San Quentin was up four points. Demarco got the ball and made a half-court, three-point shot at the buzzer. The crowd of inmates, guards and volunteers erupted.

"That's my range. I'll do it again right

now," Demarco joked after the game.

Thad Fleeton, the 5-foot-10 power forward for San Quentin, made an up and under layup in the middle of 6-foot-6 and 7-foot competitors, taking a 26-24 lead early in the second quarter.

The game was just as close at the start of the fourth quarter, with the score tied at 72-72. San Quentin Warrior Joshua Burton threw up an alley-oop to Allan McIntosh for a tie-breaking slam-dunk. McIntosh led all scorers with 33 points.

"McIntosh was great," Myers said.

In the fourth quarter, Harry "ATL" Smith blocked Collins at the rim as he went up for a dunk. The crowd erupted.

Smith finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds, showing his talent with a couple of monster jams and blocks. Collins finished with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

"My players, after all the hard work and listening to

my mouth, came through in a big way," said inmate Daniel Wright, who coaches the San Quentin team.

Golden State Warriors assistant coach Alvin Gentry delivered an inspirational message to the crowd.

"Our God loves everyone the same no matter whom or where you are. Everybody has a purpose," Gentry said. "We want to get to know you and have fun doing it. Nobody forced us to come; we're here because we want to be. One silly mistake shouldn't define your whole life. This is an opportunity to help with rehabilitation so you can be productive in the outside world."

The Warriors said they would be back next year to prove themselves after the loss.

"They deserved it today. They beat us good," Myers said. "It gives me more motivation for next year."

—Marcus Henderson and Nelson T. Butler contributed to this story.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Harry "ATL" Smith goes for the dunk as Chris DeMarco tries to swat it

Music Legend Collaborates With Prisoners For Jazz Performance on the Lower Yard

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

R&B and jazz music filled the air as more than 300 head-bopping, finger-snapping inmates took in the sounds of two inmate bands performing on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison.

Inmates crowded near the stage to hear Bread and Roses guitarist Gail Muldrow join in with the bands on Aug. 16. Two weeks before, Muldrow played at San Quentin's Day of Peace celebration. She first played at San Quentin during the 2012 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

"It's just like at home — I kind of fit in," Muldrow said about playing at San Quentin. "I got into music because my older brother kept a lot of records, and I'd play them all the time. But I didn't start playing the guitar until after Jimi Hendrix died."

Muldrow has her own band, The Gail Muldrow Band, but also plays with The Brides of Funkenstein and Painiacs.

"Blues run deep in my family," said trumpeter Larry "Popeye" Faison. "Playing with Gail took me back to my roots." Faison has played with the jazz band Just Came to Play since 2008.

"The yard show was very enlightening," said Allen "Squirrel" Ware, keyboardist for Just Came to Play. "I've played jazz with Reggie for years and other artists throughout my many years of incarceration. But today playing with and listening to Gail play and sing was truly uplifting."

Walter Ridley said he has been at San Quentin for 13 years and has seen dozens of yard shows. "I'm 53 years old, and these bands are playing the kind of music I grew up with. I can appreciate this music," Ridley said. "I've seen Jim Brown, Louis Farrakhan, Ron Carter, E-40 — all kinds of celebrities at San Quentin. This is the best show of all of them."

New Syndicate of Funk



Photo by Raphael Casale

Gail "Mojo" Muldrow jamming with Greg "Dee" Dixon on guitar

drummer, Charles King, said he grew up playing drums in the church. "It's fun and enjoyable to see some of the guys come out to see us play," King said.

"I'm glad to hear that more money is going to Arts in Corrections. Hopefully, it will give some of the younger guys something positive to do while doing their time"

"Playing music is a stress reliever for me," said conga player Jimmy Rojas for the jazz band Just Came to Play. "It's a way to express myself

and bring a positive feeling."

Arts programs in 14 state prisons are getting \$2.5 million during the next two years from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, administered through the California Arts Council.

"I'm glad to hear that more money is going to Arts in Corrections," said Eric Wilson, keyboard player for R&B band New Syndicate of Funk. "Hopefully, it will give some of the younger guys something positive to do while doing their time." Wilson said. "I came from a level four prison. We couldn't have yard shows like this."

Just Came to Play member Reggie Austin said, "This group has been playing together for about a year. Having someone like Gail play so well with us after so little practice shows her level of professionalism. I look forward to working with her on the streets."

"It was a great experience, playing with Gail," bass player Darryl Farris said. "She's easy to work with. We were just playing off the top of our heads."

Farris said he has played every genre of music, from R&B to punk. "The way I grew up in the South, there wasn't very much black music on the radio," he said. "So I listened to a lot of rock."

Farris said that he advises younger musicians to get out of their comfort zone so that they might appreciate music more.

Muldrow said she looks forward to teaching a guitar workshop at San Quentin in the fall.

New Syndicate of Funk: Wilber "Rico" Rogers, Joe Demerson on saxophone, Darryl Farris on bass, Lee Jasper on guitar and bass, Eric Wilson on keyboard and Charles King on drums.

Just Came to Play: Reggie Austin on keyboard, Jimmy Rojas on congas, Greg "Dee" Dixon on guitar, Dwight Krizman on drums, Allen "Squirrel" Ware on keyboard and Lee Jasper on bass.



Photo by Raphael Casale

Jimmy Rojas releases his stress through playing the conga. 'It brings a positive feeling' — Rojas



Gail Muldrow: It's my Life album (Feelin' Good Records 2007). Besides playing the guitar Gail also plays the bass guitar, keys and drums. Her guitar skills has been compared to Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page.

Website Offers Help to Families Of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2014 NO.11

November 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,013

CDCR Combats Drug Trafficking With New Protocols

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

In an attempt to reduce drug trafficking, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) began implementing in October what the *Associated Press* (AP) called "one of the nation's toughest protocols for access to state prisons."

The CDCR's Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR 14-09) says Electronic Drug Detection Equipment, among other technology, will be used "to search persons entering prison institutions."

A newly proposed regulation (15 CCR 3410.1) will apply to "All persons who are employed by the department, employees of other government agencies, contract employees, contractors and their employees, and volunteers."

According to the AP, machines are used "similar to those used at some airport checkpoints to select passengers at random for more inten-

sive searches."

AP reported that the state plans to spend about \$30,000 for each of the scanners, which can detect traces of explosive materials. The CDCR, however, will program these devices to scan for traces of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

"Employees who trigger alerts will be subject to pat-down searches to make sure they are not smuggling contraband but would be able to remain dressed," AP reported. "Visitors and employees caught with drugs would be referred for prosecution."

An amended regulation (15 CCR 3173.2(c)) will require visitors "to submit to contraband...and/or electronic drug detectors including, but not limited to, ION scanners..."

The AP reported prison advocacy organizations have denounced the use of these machines because of false-positive test results they some-

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Photo by Sam Hearnes

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Philip Pennypacker sat down with inmates who described in vivid detail their experiences when newly incarcerated

Judge Philip Pennypacker Discusses Criminal Justice Policy at S.Q. News Forum

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry were the topics of discussion in a forum with a lo-

cal judge, defense attorney and about a dozen inmates, many who are serving life sentences for murder in the first degree.

San Quentin News Forums began in 2012 as a means for public safety officials to come inside a prison to meet and discuss criminal justice policy with inmates with the goal of finding solutions to mass incarceration, according to forum founder Arnulfo T. Garcia, editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News*.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Philip Pennypacker and attorney Emma Bradford from Nolan, Armstrong & Barton, LLP, listened to inmates

talking about their experiences of incarceration, beginning with arrest, then being detained in county jail and being shipped to a maximum-security prison.

"As soon as I got to county jail, I realized I cannot be myself," said Tare Beltranchuc, 41.

Beltranchuc, convicted of second-degree murder in 2000, added that the racial boundaries were the first thing he noticed when he got to a maximum-security prison.

Miguel Quezada, 33, said that in 1998, at 17 he was booked into a Modesto County jail for mur-

See Judge on Page 9

Proposition 47 Law Passed to Reclassifying Felony Charges



Photos by Sam Hearnes

District Attorneys George Gascon and Jeff Rosen support Proposition 47

As Election Day brought a Democratic sweep in all major leadership positions in Sacramento, 58 percent of California voters said that a number of crimes previously charged as felonies are now misdemeanors.

Proposition 47 passed Nov. 4 causing the penalty of certain crimes to be reduced, including some drug-possession offenses, petty theft, receiv-

ing stolen property and forging/writing bad checks when amount involved is \$950 or less.

Known as *The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act*, persons with previous convictions for crimes such as rape, murder or child molestation are excluded, as are registered sex offenders. For them, the offense is still a felony.

Offenders currently serving

felony sentences for the listed crimes have the opportunity to appear before a judge to have their sentences reduced to the misdemeanor term. In order for a defendant to benefit from Proposition 47, a thorough review of the defendant's criminal history and risk assessment has to be made to ensure that they "do not pose a risk to the

See Proposition on Page 15

Senator Rand Paul Advocates Voting Rights For Ex-Felons

Jerry Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

Senator Rand Paul (R-Kentucky), who is considering a 2016 presidential run, is seeking to restore voting rights to nonviolent felons in federal elections. Paul also is pursuing reform in drug sentencing, including redefining to misdemeanors some drug offenses currently classified as felonies, and is supporting efforts aimed at getting nonviolent criminals back into the job market.

Paul does not deny his actions are motivated by politics. In an interview with Burgess Everett at *Politico.com*, Paul stated, "I believe in these issues. But I'm a politician, and we want more votes."

As of 2011, more than a



File photo

Paul espouses issues that will help nonviolent criminals resume their lives

third of the 637,000 non-violent state or federal prisoners were serving time for drug

See Rand Paul on Page 4

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Jennifer Armstrong, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Skip Bergeron, Luci Berkowitz*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, Deborah Brown, PL Brown, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula, Sua Shu-Kwan Chan, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Marshall Cook, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, Margaret Crimmins, Simone Gabrielle Crowe, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Daniel Elber, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling*, George Estrada, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheilah Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman*, Craig Gore, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Angelique Groh, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngrad, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Sara Jones, Stephanie Jones, Seema Kacker, Kaitlin Kall, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Anthony Kenrick*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klopp, Dwane Kratochvil, Elise Kroeber, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Monica Lee-Griffith, Elsa Legesse*, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Melvin and Cherly Macomber*, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Tracy McIntosh, Andrew MacKay, David McConnell, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Wistar McLaren, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Phyllis Mileo, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Robin Myers-Li, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgpold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O’Daly, Jeffrey O’Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, J.S. Perrella*, Paul Peterzell, John Porter, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Stephen Reitz, Galen Van Rensselaer, Marguerite Rigoglioso, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarsone, J.B. Scherrer, Lucia Scott, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Seven Sisters School, Lillian Sharif*, Jonathan Simon*, Edward Skinner, Bob and Mercedes Slakey*, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, The Real Cost of Prisons, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Peter Wagner, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Carla White, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Sharran Zeleke, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

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Officer Hauwert’s Thoughts
Concerning Gender Identification

By Jarvis JuVan Clark
Journalism Guild Writer

Seven years ago, M. Hauwert was hired as a male correctional officer at San Quentin State Prison. Now Officer Hauwert is transitioning to a female identity.

“I’m hoping that someday it’ll get to the point where we don’t need to make gender identification an issue,” Hauwert said in an interview.

Hauwert, who is 34, began her transition by first growing her hair out and using bobby pins. She later started using makeup. A year before she came out, she got her ears pierced. However, male officers cannot wear earrings, so Hauwert wore Band-Aids over her ears. Since then, Hauwert has legally changed her name and her birth certificate now declares that she is a female.

“At first, I was a transgender woman who was cross-dressing,” Hauwert said. “Then I began experimenting with make-up and clothes for my body type. Some of the outfits were horrendous!”

She first decided to identify as transsexual at age 23, while still in the Navy. Military records show that Hauwert served for eight years and received an honorable discharge from the Navy.

Her next step would take another six years. She didn’t come out to her family and closest friends until age 29.

“My gender dissonance was all-inclusive. It overwhelmed my every thought. I started by wearing makeup and dressing as a woman,” Hauwert said. “When people asked about it, I explained that I’m a transsexual woman. I’m not just dressing as female; I’m living as a woman. It took my family a long time to get used to me being transgender.”

Hauwert said that after leaving the Navy she turned to her uncle, who worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He suggested that she apply for employment with CDCR. After being accepted, Hauwert started her career at San Quentin State Prison.

Hauwert said there have been



File photo

Officer M. Hauwert began her transition by growing her hair long and starting to use make-up

times where people just do not know how to approach her. When people make derogatory remarks, she said, “It’s dehumanizing. Any remarks like that are hurtful and meant to bring you down. You get either angry or depressed. I get depressed and usually keep my head down.”

“Most people don’t mis-gender me out of hate. They just don’t know how to identify me”

“Most people don’t mis-gender me out of hate. They just don’t know how to identify me.”

Hauwert said mis-gendering for a person transitioning from male to female is when someone uses a male pronoun toward them. “So to mis-gender a woman means to refer to her by using a male pronoun – any word that means ‘man,’” she said.

Hauwert said mis-gendering is “like water torture.”

“Eventually, it drives the person insane, because the person is trapped and has to endure it every time,” she said. “Each time that you mis-gender someone, it hurts the per-

son slowly, like water droplets. Each ‘him’ or ‘he’ becomes a terrifying experience. It’s not that we cannot handle people calling us ‘sir.’ They simply don’t know that it’s been happening to you for years, even decades. People sometimes don’t realize that they’re tearing away who that person is, that they’re taking away your right to self-identify.”

“I’ve given you a lot of information with one word. In the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Community, labeling is a way to identify one’s self. My viewpoint is that it’s been extremely helpful,” Hauwert said. “There’s a label that tells a little about who I am. If I say I’m not a cross-dresser but transsexual, then you know what I am and vice versa. By giving myself a label, I’m telling you who I am. But, it’s still only a part of me.”

Webster’s New College Dictionary says transgender sexuality is not readily characterized as exclusively male or female. Transsexuals are predisposed to identify with the opposite sex, sometimes so strongly they undergo surgery and hormone injections to effect a change of sex.

The June issue of TIME magazine reported that 65 percent of Americans know or have a family member who is homosexual. Of the 65 percent, 9 percent said they have one who is transgender.

Hauwert added that being transsexual is not a choice. People are born with their sexual orientation and gender identity, she said.

Hauwert said if she had the opportunity to talk to herself at a young age, she would say, “I wish the younger me hadn’t stolen my life. I would tell him to step aside.”



File photo

Officer M. Hauwert in her CDCR uniform

San Francisco Jail Population Declined Both Before and After Realignment Policy

By David Eugene Archer Sr.
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco's jail population is shrinking after the Realignment program passed by the California Legislature in 2011, the sheriff's office reports.

The reduction is attributed to programs that help prisoners return to their communities. That includes housing, education, social services and drug rehabilitation, jail officials report. Policies are aimed at treating jail or prison as a last resort.

The result: San Francisco's daily jail population declined from 1,954 in 2009 to 1,281 in February 2014, Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still told Ryan Holeywell in an article on the governing.com website.

"San Francisco was ahead of the game before Realignment ever began (in 2011)," says Linda Penner, chair of the state's Board of State and Community Corrections, which oversees county jails. This long-standing

approach predated the state's crisis.

"They had a community that embraced treatment. They had the capacity. And they had the political will. With Realignment, they've just accelerated and stepped on the gas," says Penner.

Realignment was a result of court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. Its main feature is keeping low-level offenders in county jails, rather than sending them to a state prison.

If long prison sentences were a criminal deterrent, crime would have been nearly eliminated in California long ago, and repeat offenders would be almost nonexistent. That, of course, isn't the case at all, and it's why federal judges have ordered California to drastically reduce the number of inmates in state custody, said Paul Henderson, deputy chief of staff and public safety director for San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

"People do bad things, and

they absolutely should be arrested, and there absolutely should be justice," Henderson added. "But what that justice can look like has to be a broader discussion than 'more jail end of discussion.'"

So, how well is that working? Henderson says, "I get a lot of flak from my community, from prosecutors and from law enforcement." But he believes that rehabilitation costs less than imprisonment, and that his critics' approach has done little other than create a state prison system so overcrowded that federal courts have ruled it unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

"Where do you think these people go when they're released?" he asked. "Do you think they end up in Australia? Do they enroll in MIT and become professors on the East Coast? No. The average prison term is two to three years.

"They have been separated from all their friends and fam-



File photo

The halls of San Francisco's jails are less crowded due to programs that return prisoners to their communities

ily, they don't have a job, they were presumably uneducated and are still under-educated. And they're coming back to the same community – your community – without a foundation and without the support because they've been gone. What do you think they're going to do? It's a disservice to act like we don't know this process is going on and not intervene."

Criminal justice victory should be more than just obtaining convictions, he believes. It should be helping to turn an offender into a productive member of society.

California was ordered to reduce its prison population in 2009 because of poor health care that one judge said caused one inmate death a week. In 2006 the population was 170,000. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld that decision requiring reduction to around 110,000.

California criminologist Joan Petersilia said more than 100,000 prisoners have come under county control since Realignment became law.

The speed at which the change happened is "...historically the biggest shift in criminal justice done anywhere in the country in a very short period of time," Penner said.

Counties are receiving around \$1 billion annually to deal with their new responsibilities under realignment. Building new jails or focusing on more services to prevent recidivism are choices they can make.

"Everything we know from the most rigorous research suggests if you want to reduce recidivism rates, you have to address housing security, availability of jobs and social connections," says Barry Krisberg, senior fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. "The state was never able to do that."

San Francisco had a head start in dealing with Realignment. They had an overcrowding situation in the 1980s that resulted in litigation, forcing the city to adjust.

"Other counties have taken Realignment money and invested it in more jails. We haven't done that," said Jeff Adachi, San Francisco's elected public defender. Alternative sentencing and re-entry programs that hook up prisoners with drug treatment, education and employment services are the city's focus.

"San Francisco is...a road map for how to get organized and do it well," says Krisberg.

But not all counties follow the city's lead. "Some counties are making the same mistakes the state made, which was to try to build their way out of the problem," says Don Specter, an attorney for inmates who sued the state over prison conditions.

Jails in about 37 of the 58 counties have reached population caps imposed locally or by courts or other oversight bodies. The result? In some cases, early releases of prisoners locally.

Stephen Manley, a Superior Court judge in Santa Clara County, is supportive of Realignment. He added counties don't all have the resources to adopt re-entry programs, even with state aid, which have been proven to reduce recidivism.

"We have over 150 people sitting in jail, right now, who have been released by judges to treatment, and they can't get out of jail because there's not treatment for them," Manley says. "We don't have enough alternatives."

5150 Law Allow Holds for People in Psychiatric Crisis

'There is demonstrable evidence that there's something going on in California that's helping to stop gun violence'

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

California's "5150" law allowing holds for people in psychiatric crisis improves the odds of stopping gun violence, gun-control advocates say. Supporters say the law can be one way to help curb mass shootings.

"There is demonstrable evidence that there's something going on in California that's helping to stop gun violence in a way that isn't mirrored in most other states," the *Hearst Newspapers* reported, quoting attorney Lindsay Nichols of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco.

Under the state's Welfare and

Institutions Code, section 5150, mental health professionals can commit those deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others to a care facility for 72 hours. If necessary, the stay can be extended for two weeks after a hearing, allowing patients to argue for their release.

California posted the ninth-lowest gun-death rate in 2010, compared to 16th highest in the country in 1990, according to Nichols, citing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention age-and population-adjusted numbers.

To safeguard patients' rights, drug and alcohol use or plain odd antisocial behavior is not by itself grounds for 72-hour hold. A patient is only barred from

possessing a gun if he or she is admitted to a mental health facility, said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Davis, according to the *Hearst* article.

Gun-rights advocates say the 5150 gun probation comes at a price because there is no due process right to a hearing for those held less than 72 hours, according to the report.

"If any other fundamental right were taken away — free speech or voting rights — no one would stand for it," said Jason Davis, an attorney in Mission Viejo (Orange County), who specializes in gun law and represents individuals subjected to 5150 holds, *Hearst* reported.

San Mateo County Refuses to Detain Jailed Individuals for Immigration Officials

By Nelson T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

San Mateo County has joined a growing movement to no longer detain jailed individuals for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, except in unusual circumstances.

In a statement made in June, Sheriff's Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt said San Mateo County would stop detaining persons for ICE once they have been cleared for release.

"We have decided we will modify our policy to state that (ICE) holds will not be honored or placed on individuals in custody (by the San Mateo Sheriff's Department) unless a rare exception arises in cases of individuals who pose significant

public safety concerns," said Rosenblatt.

San Mateo County joins Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties in declining to hold individuals who pose no significant public safety concerns, said Rosenblatt.

In January, the California Trust Act went into effect that allows local law enforcement to decline to comply with federal hold requests if the person has not been charged with a serious offense.

Also in June, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi stated that his jail would not hold people for ICE after they are cleared for release from county custody.

"My long-held belief is that local law enforcement should

not be in the civil immigration detainer business," Mirkarimi was quoted as saying in a story in the *San Francisco Examiner*. "Public safety is not advanced and could be hindered when immigrant communities fear the repercussions of cooperating with law enforcement."

Federal immigration hold requests rose after the Obama administration created the Secure Communities program, unifying similar programs within the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

Through the Secure Communities program, local law enforcement would send arrest information, such as birthplaces and fingerprints, to immigration officials. That information would then be crosschecked to

determine residency status. If a person's status came back as "undocumented," ICE could place a request with local law enforcement to hold that person, usually for 48 hours, while ICE officials conducted their own investigation.

Those individuals would be held at local taxpayers' expense and in violation of their constitutional rights, according to recent court rulings. Those cases in favor of the immigrants, and the Trust Act, have allowed a shift in local policy in regard to immigration holds.

"We're leaving the door open for the off chance that something comes up that doesn't fall within this policy. There can be exceptions for public-safety reasons," said Rosenblatt.

Mother of Murdered Daughter Explores the 'Mystery of Forgiveness'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Linda White's daughter was murdered in Texas. She came to San Quentin State Prison last month to talk about forgiveness with inmates who have committed similarly serious crimes.

"Forgiveness is sometimes a mystery to me," she said. "It's letting go of all that negative power. I did not set out to find a way to forgive those boys who took my daughter. I just set out to live my life."

White was one of the featured speakers at a symposium on alternative ways of approaching criminal justice, hosted at the Catholic Chapel on Sept. 13. She is part of Bridges to Life, a Texas faith-based program that arranges encounters with victims and offenders.

White shared her own story of meeting one of her daughter's killers, where she learned that her daughter's last words were, "I forgive you and God will too."

The perpetrator has now been on parole for five years, and White believes his success since leaving prison is a memorial to her daughter.

"He had someone to finally listen to him," said inmate Darnell "Moe" Washington of White's encounter with her daughter's killer. "That resonated because once someone heard my story, I was able to accept and be held accountable for my actions."

A group of 150, including some 25 guests, gathered for the symposium, Forgiving to Heal, which was sponsored by the San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Round Table. The visitors, many

who regularly volunteer at the prison, mingled with inmates at the six-hour event to learn from White and others about principles of Restorative Justice, such as healing and forgiveness.

"Receiving looks of empathy, not looks of judgment, helped me share my story," inmate Tommy Ross said.

Ross talked about the long-lasting effects of his traumatic childhood, and his journey to forgiveness. Prior to practicing Restorative Justice principles, he said he could not let go of the anger that led him to gang violence and, eventually, second-degree murder.

Julio Escobar, who works with survivors of violent crime with the Catholic Diocese of San Francisco, also spoke at the symposium. He began his presentation with

a moment of silence in honor of victims of crime and offered advice to perpetrators about coming to terms with their pasts.

"It's an encounter with yourself," Escobar said to the audience. "There are three areas: What you think you are, what others think you are, and then the real you. Take off the mask. Compassionate listening is the practice that I use."

Some family members believe that forgiving perpetrators is a form of betrayal, according to Escobar. He says part of his role is to change this way of thinking.

"It is through forgiveness that we are forgiven," said inmate Dwight Krizman in a prayer.

The symposium deeply affected many inmates, who spent time discussing the

core values of Restorative Justice, including caring, humility and trust.

"Respect is a feeling or attitude of admiration and deference toward somebody or something," said inmate Mike Webb. "I don't mind being vulnerable and sharing my story."

Volunteer Noel Amherd, who teaches a Ifa religious group at San Quentin, said he was similarly moved by the event. The group, called Ajobo Isese, meets on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Catholic Chapel library.

"I found brothers that I thought I never had," Amherd said. "San Quentin is a community of people that society dismisses, yet San Quentin carries people who have value."

—Rahsaan Thomas
contributed to this story

NASCAR Officials and Crewmembers Cruise into San Quentin and Discuss Reform

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Earlier this year, NASCAR officials and crewmembers learned about the rehabilitation needs and efforts of inmates during a tour of San Quentin State Prison.

"I was curious as to what was happening. It opened my eyes. I'm happy to see reform is taking place so you guys can have an opportunity at a normal life," said NASCAR nurse Lori Shepard. She added that if we just "keep putting people in prison" and there is no rehabilitation, "society doesn't benefit."

The group met and had a candid discussion with inmates Troy Williams (recently paroled), Sam Hearn, Sam Johnson, Harun Taylor, Clinton Martin and Tommy Winfrey.

Williams opened with this question: "What do you think the purpose of prisons is?"

"Reform," said John Sacco, a NASCAR official. "Keep real bad people off the street," said someone else.

"Public safety is more than just locking people up, because 80 percent are returning to society," said Williams.

Williams talked to the NASCAR group about the realities of prison. "Imagine being in an environment where you are attacked because of your color. You have to keep your boots tied tight whenever your cell door's open because, if a member of your race gets into a fight with a member of another race, you will be attacked. You can't say you ain't with it. Imagine living like that for years, then being released, here's \$200, good luck."

"There is a technical divide between the public and prisoners. In an age when job applications are being filed online and most communications are being done by way of email or

text, how can we expect people who have never used computers or cell phones to keep up in the modern society?" added Sam Hearn. "If you tell an inmate to click a mouse, you might have to coax him off the table because he might be thinking you meant Mickey."

"Overcrowding poses an additional challenge to rehabilitation because it increases the demand on rehabilitative programs," Hearn continued. "There used to be just 30 people in Restorative Justice; now there are 150 with about another 100 on the waiting list."

"San Quentin is unique in that it has over 78 self-help groups," said Williams. After explaining about some of the programs that really make a difference, the floor was open to questions from the guests.

"What did you do to come to prison?" asked Kristi King, who is a NASCAR director of communications. "You said any question," she added after seeing the surprised look on Williams' face.

Her question received candid answers. Hearn: second-degree murder; Taylor: robbery; Johnson: murder; Martin: murder; Roberts: snatching two \$20 bills under the Three Strikes Law; Winfrey: murder.

"For ya'll who took a life, have ya'll made restitution to the victim?" asked Jason Brownlow, a Pit Road official.

"That's difficult to do. CDCR doesn't want us to have direct contact with the victim because you might re-traumatize them," said Williams.

"I have. I've apologized," said Winfrey.

"You are required to write the victim before you go to the parole board. It may not reach the victim, but you will have the attempt in your file," said Johnson.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

This NASCAR team had a good talk with inmates about rehabilitation programs

"Are parole panels biased?" asked NASCAR inspector Wally Hinnant.

"Yes," said the group of inmates.

"Who decides what prison you go to?" asked Kristi King.

"Counselors," answered a corrections officer. "Using a point system," added Taylor.

"When did your rehabilitation start? Did you wait till you got to San Quentin?" asked Sheppard.

"I blamed white people for ev-

erything that was wrong in my life until I figured out I'm the one who put myself in this position," said Taylor. "Once I realized I needed to change, the help wasn't available until I arrived at San Quentin." Taylor is now in several groups.

"I realized I was part of my community and I have to be an example. I want to be a good guy," said Winfrey.

"It's a lot different than I thought it would be. I'm sur-

prised it's so laid-back and you guys can play baseball," said Todd Chafee, NASCAR driver Kevin Harvick's tire specialist.

"Talking to you guys was a bonus," said Rob Berry, an inspector who has toured a few times before meeting the inmate panel. "It was eye opening."

"I was exposed to stories I wouldn't normally hear, people I wouldn't normally meet, and it was wonderful," said nurse Pam Talbert.

Senator Rand Paul Announced His Support for Voting Rights for Ex-Felons

Continued from Page 1

offenses; 44 percent were black, 20 percent were Latinos, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That year, African-Americans made up only 13 percent of the population while Latinos made up 16 percent.

Paul states the criminal justice system disproportionately punishes minorities, making it harder for ex-cons to vote and gain meaningful employ-

ment. In July, Paul submitted his legislation as SB 2550.

Paul also sent out a "Dear Colleague" letter targeting 75 percent of Democrats and 30 percent of Republicans he estimates can support his bill. "There's a racial outcome to the war on drugs," Paul said. "Three out of four people in prison for nonviolent drug offenses are black and brown."

Since then, Senator Cory Booker, a black Democrat from New Jersey, agreed to

co-sponsor the bill, which the two senators are calling the REDEEM Act.

According to Ari Melber of MSNBC, the bill would "seal criminal records for teenage offenders, while adults could apply to have their records expunged. Judges would review those applications, under the proposal, by balancing an offender's interest in 'employment' against the public's interest in 'knowledge and safety.'"

Supreme Court Decision Erodes Occupants' Right to Deny Police Search of Residence

By Nelson T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in February that law enforcement officers can legally search a residence after one person living there initially denies them consent to conduct the search if another legal occupant afterward does give them consent to search.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court decided against a 28-year-old California inmate and gang member who had challenged the October 2009 search of his Los Angeles apartment, which was conducted when his girlfriend gave officers permission after he was in custody.

Walter Alberto Fernandez had claimed he was trying to leave his L.A. gang and criminal life behind him when his apartment was searched. Initially, police were investigating a robbery. After hearing screams coming from the

apartment Fernandez shared with his girlfriend, Roxanne Rojas, and after seeing that Rojas appeared to have been beaten, they took Fernandez into custody. At the time, Fernandez told police, "You don't have any right to come in here." However, police returned to the apartment after Fernandez was arrested.

According to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Rojas consented to allow police to search the apartment after about 20 minutes of being questioned and threatened by police. They said they would take her son away from her if she did not consent to the search, she claimed. During the search, police found gang paraphernalia, a butterfly knife, ammunition and a sawed-off shotgun. Fernandez is currently serving a 14-year sentence after pleading no contest on firearms charges after being convicted of robbery and inflicting corporal

injury.

The court's split ruling said that the girlfriend's eventual consent was sufficient, even though Fernandez had previously denied permission.

Alito is a former federal prosecutor with a history of supporting law enforcement in cases that appear before him. "Any other rule would trample on the rights of the occupant who is willing to consent. Such an occupant may want the police to search in order to dispel suspicion raised by sharing quarters with a criminal."

Alito also warned of "practical complications" if the refusal to consent by Fernandez was upheld. The justice suggested a possibility where a refusal to give consent to search a dwelling could last through a long prison term. It would require police to have a search warrant, which could possibly hinder detectives who were trying to solve crimes.



File photo

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 6-3 decision that will support law enforcement policies on home searches

Community Program Funding Losses Could Threaten Youth Incarceration Reduction Efforts

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Legislative changes are responsible for the mass reductions in youth incarceration nationwide, but a reduction of funding for community organizational programs could threaten the continued success, says the National Council on Crime

& Delinquency (NCCD).

The authors of the report, Antoinette Davis, Angela Irvine, and Jason Ziedenberg, wrote about five components that have made legislative changes successful: revised supervision responsibility, reallocating finances, redefining crime status from felony to misdemeanors/non-violent felonies, using ev-

idence-based practices, and inspiring stakeholders to support nonrestrictive facilities.

The legislative changes did not use a cookie cutter model. Legislation varied from state to state depending on their needs. In the past the juvenile justice systems across the country operated from a tri-lateral structure utilizing three entities: state,

county, and local government agencies. However, as governments begin to implement less punitive means of punishment, new ideas are surfacing about how rehabilitation methods should be addressed.

Funding is always an issue and the reallocating of resources is one way governments are addressing this.

Mike Griffiths, executive director of Texas' Department of Juvenile Justice, said, "We validated the proposal we put forward to the policymakers in 2009 that said, 'Give local communities the resources and we will refer the youth away from the deep end of the system.'"

The NCCD reported on the fiscal incentives offered to some state systems. Nine states were mentioned in the report, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, New York, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, and Nebraska, as having established a fiscal incentive to serve more youth outside of the state juvenile justice system.

While there are always challenges incorporating the juvenile programs into the community, advocates for the project remain optimistic about its success. The biggest issue with implementation of community programs is finding the funding needed to support the youth in the community. Connecting with concerned citizens and business people to operate and foster the programs is equally important.

Federal funding for juvenile justice, as well as the Delinquency Prevention Act, has been reduced 83% from 1999 to 2010, according to a National Academy of Sciences report. An alliance of stakeholders for federal reforms is calling for government agencies to reallocate

funds for juvenile justice.

The NCCD report went on to say that community-based organizations' ability to expand rests in the hands of legislators and budget reform. Currently, no legislative plans for reform are being discussed openly. However, the hope is that legislators and advocates of budget reform will convene and discuss the reinvestment of federal funding.

The NCCD report stressed that funding reinvestment is imperative in order for juvenile justice programs to succeed.

Scott Taylor, director of the Department of Community Justice in Multnomah County, Oregon, said "As (states) go through this reinvestment, what they fail to do is maintain the infrastructure to allow the local (jurisdiction) to deal with these folks locally." Presently, programs are being closed as incarcerated juvenile numbers decline. The irony is that due to the decline in juvenile incarceration, more money will be necessary to provide community-based organizations with the means to sustain these positive numbers.

Finally, Katy Weinsten Miller, Chief of Alternative Programs and Initiatives for the San Francisco district attorney's office, said, "Even if you succeed in getting the money into the community, into community-based organizations, there's still that question of how you design funding processes to make sure that it includes homegrown organizations, with people who lived that experience providing the service. We have this struggle in San Francisco where it often winds up being the best grant writers—not necessarily the most qualified organizations—that receive the biggest grants."

CDCR to Combat Drugs With Random Hand-Swab Testing

Continued from Page 1

times provide.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons ended its use of ION-detector hand-swabbing devices six years ago due to complaints of them being unreliable, the AP reported.

The AP report said visitors identified as likely in possession of contraband would be "subject to strip searches, although they could walk away rather than undergo the procedure."

The California Code of Regulations, Title 15 (updated through January 1, 2014), Section 3173.2(d)(7) covering unclothed body searches, states that, "This procedure may be conducted with the visitor's consent when there is reasonable suspicion that a visitor is carrying contraband and when no less intrusive means are available to conduct the search."

"The whole point is to deter and detect trafficking into our prisons," Dana Simas, CDCR spokesperson, told the AP. "It's a serious issue."

"Persons entering and exit-

ing CDCR institutions sometimes employ extraordinary means to try and smuggle drugs and contraband into and out of prisons," the NCR reads in its Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR).

The ISOR said drug trafficking and drug use cause many problems in prison. They increase the number of assaults, create power struggles among inmates and forge the "establishment of an underground economy, and staff corruption."

In June 2013, the CDCR conducted voluntary and random drug testing of 25 percent of the inmate population, according to the ISOR. Twenty-three percent of those who volunteered tested positive, and 30 percent of those randomly selected to voluntarily test declined to do so, even though there were no disciplinary actions taken against inmates testing positive.

CDCR used drug-sniffing dogs that discovered 404 pounds of illicit drugs in 2013, KCRA.com reported. In the first half of 2014, prison officials said, another 29 pounds

of drugs were discovered. Since July 1 another 26 pounds have been discovered, most of which was marijuana.

The CDCR (according to the ISOR) recorded more than 4,000 drug-related incidents in 2013. They resulted in 382 arrests of non-inmate attempts to bring drugs into a prison. Ten were CDCR staff, 52 were non-visitors and 320 were visitors.

"Subjecting all employees, including CDCR administrative staff, to random testing creates a safer working environment for our members," said JeVaughn Baker, spokesperson for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

"Based on the 2013 drug-related incidents and test results, the department must do more to reduce the availability of and use of drugs in the prison system," the ISOR said.

The public comment period on proposed regulations closes on Dec. 9, 2014, at 5p.m., according to the CDCR's Regulation and Policy Management Branch. (See *San Quentin News* July 2014, p. 6, for more information on proposed regulations.)

Giving Thanks

EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

Thanks from *San Quentin News*.

November is my third year as Editor-in-Chief of *San Quentin News*. I am blessed to be involved with so many people of good will. This Thanksgiving season, I give thanks for and to all our friends, supporters, advisers and staff. Through the efforts of our supporters' time, energy, services and money, many people are educated about the prison system.

The steady progress toward the goal of getting this newspaper into the hands of all California inmates cannot be done without donations. We need money to print and distribute our paper, as the state does not pay for printing or distributing the *San Quentin News*.

I realize that making a commitment in time or money is difficult when there is no specific personal gain in sight. Most of our donors are not inmates. I also recognize that doing something to benefit prisoners may be condemned or ridiculed by some people. However, I point to my own experience as an example of why you are right to help *San Quentin News*.

Life in prison is always a struggle – and especially when you haven't begun to unwind from your past life and move in the right direction. It took me many years to get beyond the heroin I was pushing into my body.

It wasn't easy to overcome my addiction. Even when I was using, I wanted to quit. However, with no support or guidance, I couldn't see the other side. I used to blame everyone for my mistakes. I blamed my father, the police, the probation officer, the DA, the judges. I blamed everyone but myself.

“Even when I was using, I wanted to quit. However, with no support or guidance, I couldn't see the other side. I used to blame everyone for my mistakes. I blamed everyone but myself”

When I finally wound up in the prison system, I blamed CDCR. They had too many rules and they used them against us. Now, I look to the criminal justice professionals to help me fix things. Not just for me, but for all inmates.

Back then, the reality was that I could not see beyond my self-centered world. Because it was driving me crazy, I began to write about my life. I wrote down everything I could think of, whether it was good or bad.

Somehow, the act of putting my life down on paper made me realize that I had to take a serious look at myself. Over time, I came full circle to the realization that the person responsible for my situation was me.

While I am not happy about my circumstance (serving 65 years to life), I have arrived at a place where I can actually thank the various people who put me here. It sounds funny I suppose, but my association with *San Quentin News* has allowed me to demonstrate to others that change is possible. Change for individual inmates and change for a criminal justice system that has proved to have many flaws.

At *San Quentin News* we focus attention on the experiences of inmates who participate in the nearly 70 different self-help, educational and vocational programs offered here. It has been shown that in terms of rehabilitation, vocational training and correctional education work better than long-term incarceration, *San Quentin News* is able to examine these programs and report on them for the benefit of inmates throughout the state.

With the help of San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez we embarked on a new direction in our examination of criminality, recidivism, reentry and better understanding of prisoners. Beginning with Rodriguez, we had the opportunity to share our experiences, and gain input, from district attorneys George Gascon of San Francisco, Stephen M. Wagstaffe of San Mateo County, Edward S. Berberian of Marin County and Jeff Rosen of Santa Clara County; along with Santa Clara Judge Philip Penypacker, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and attorneys Thomas Nolan, Daniel Barton and Emma Bradford.

We owe thanks to Nancy Mullane and the Society of Professional Journalists for their commitment to inmate journalism. Due to the efforts of Pam Benjamin of Mutiny Radio, *San Quentin News* is developing an additional outlet to get prison news out to the public. Thanks to Stephanie Foo from “This American Life” on public radio and *Variety Magazine*, *San Quentin News* is getting additional mainstream media coverage. Independent reporter Jessica Pishko also comes to San Quentin to cover what is happening behind bars. Thank you, Paul Cobb of the Post News Group for taking us under your wing. Thank you, Jon Spurlock and the Berkeley-Haas Project team, for giving us a direction and a plan for the future. In addition, thanks to The Colum-

bia Foundation for helping us to reach more inmates. There are so many people who have helped our cause, and we thank you all.

I'm now at a stage in my development that I am very much aware of my dependence on others for help. The same is true for all inmates. We are all dependent on others. But ultimately, the public also benefits greatly. More educational opportunities and vocational training geared toward inmates will make streets safer and communities more comfortable by reducing recidivism rates. For me, it is very significant that the people I used to blame for my troubles are now among our biggest supporters. As one of Berberian's staff said, “You men give us the tools we need so we can do our job better.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘Confirmation Is Vital’

From Reginald E. Valley State Prison:

I sent you two books of 20 forever stamps, plus one single stamp (forever) to cover 12 issues. The \$1.61 in stamps is an odd number. Stamps are 0.49 each; one would have to send you four stamps totaling \$1.96 due to three stamps at 49 cents each equal \$1.47. I'm an old timer to the system, since 1978, and

I would hope you address the problem of payment by inmates with stamps. Confirmation is vital.

Response: You are a valued reader, and we apologize that we have not made that clear to you. We received your 41 stamps and you will receive 12 newspapers. We are grateful for your support.

–Emile DeWeaver
Circulation Manager

Video Meetings to Replace In-Person Visits for Inmates?

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A prison research organization is working to forestall a growing national trend that it believes may exploit inmate families for profit by reducing or eliminating in-person visits and replacing them with costly video visits.

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), together with the Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC), recently sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission urging it to “address non-voice forms of communication...”

“Left unregulated, the video communication market is very likely to end up like the mostly unregulated prison and jail telephone industry...expensive and counterproductive,” said Peter Wagner, executive director of PPI, in an opinion piece in the *New York Times*. According to Wagner, video visiting in jails and prisons are already a reality in some facilities across the country. He said the profit motive involved is driving families apart instead of keeping them in touch.

Wagner argued on PPI's website that “Charging unconscionable sums and banning free in-

person visits is a step in entirely the wrong direction.”

In September, a Dallas County (Texas) Commissioner Court rejected part of a contract proposal by Securus, one of the largest providers of jail telephone service in the country, to provide video visiting using computers.

According to a PPI update, the contract called for jails to stop regular in-person visiting and require family and friends of inmates to pay for what it calls “expensive video visits.”

“The court soundly rejected the two most critical parts of the proposed contract: the ban on in-person visitation and the collection of commissions for video visiting,” PPI reported.

It was reported by Metro Pulse that in Knox County (Tennessee), the sheriff's office stopped face-to-face visiting, deciding instead to replace it with video visitation. The system is free for visitors who come to the facility but cost 40 cents per minute to use from a personal computer.

Mark Stephens, Knox County's public defender, said families drive out to jail facilities for free visits. He questioned why they cannot see inmates in person. “I think it is a cruel thing to

do.” According to research done by Wagner, some customers pay up to \$1 a minute for video visits. “This is such a uniformly bad idea,” said Wagner. “I'm kind of speechless.”

In a letter to the FCC last year, PPI expressed how “the video visitation market is rife with usability failures and poor service.” It said, “Usability barriers are particularly troubling in facilities where in-person visits are no longer permitted.”

PPI's letter to the FCC concluded by saying a failure to regulate jail video visiting prices will open the door for this industry to “instantly subvert the FCC's price caps on long-distance calls.”

Two years ago, the *Washington Post* reported the District of Columbia was replacing person-to-person visiting in its jails with video visiting.

“As our submission demonstrates, video visitation is here to stay. Increasing the number of ways that families can stay in touch is a good thing. But allowing companies to exploit families and undercut the FCC's efforts to bring fairness to this industry is not,” said Leah Sakala, research analyst with PPI.



San Quentin News being read in front of Notre Dame, in Paris, France

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Kid C.A.T. Corner

Public Needs to Know Problems Juveniles Face

By Miguel Quezada
Contributing Writer

Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) launches Kid C.A.T. Speaks!, a monthly column dedicated to highlighting the inmate group's service and the issues that impact youth.

Kid C.A.T.'s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. The members are men who committed their crimes when they were juveniles but were sentenced to adult prison terms.

Understanding what it means to be an at-risk youth, the men combine current knowledge and stories of transformation to illuminate the problems they faced and illustrate needed solutions.

Kid C.A.T. Speaks! will discuss issues small and large that affect youth, including law and policy, movements and programs that positively influence young people's lives. It will also feature first-person narratives that share experiences and information about Kid C.A.T.'S efforts to help youth.

The past decade has seen dramatic changes in the treatment of juveniles under the age of 18 when they commit crimes. Senate Bill 9 (Yee), which prohibits the sentencing of young offenders to serve life without the possibility of parole, acknowledges that juveniles have the capacity to rehabilitate and have a greater possibility of earning parole.

SB260 (Hancock), signed into law in 2013, recognizes the

age, maturity and neurological development at the time of the offense and corresponding culpability. SB260 holds young offenders accountable, yet provides an opportunity for earned release through a Youth Offender Review Board when they have served a minimum of 25, 15 or 10 years of their determinate or indeterminate sentences.

Currently, Kid C.A.T. believes the most important issue is Assembly Bill 1276 (Bloom). It acknowledges that inmates under the age of 22 will benefit from housing in low-level security facilities where self-help, education and vocational programs are more available.

In Level 4 facilities, younger inmates can be exposed to pres-



Photo by Christine Remillard

Kid C.A.T. members and volunteers helping homeless children through their hygiene drive

sure from prison gangs and can become victims of violence or manipulation. Under these conditions, they must focus on survival, not rehabilitation.

Kid C.A.T. recognizes that society has a responsibility to create safe environments that provide opportunities for young people. In our communities,

there are volunteers and programs that offer youth access to education, employment and life-changing opportunities.

The column will focus on the persons and organizations that work to fulfill that vision.

Kid C.A.T.'s goal is to inspire youth to make positive personal transformation in their lives.

The Beat Within Collaborates With Kid C.A.T. in a Writing Workshop

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Giving at-risk youngsters the opportunity to write about themselves on their own terms opens the way for more personal support aimed toward their recovery, according to a couple of organizations that united for a writing workshop geared toward juvenile offenders.

The two organizations were Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) a San Quentin self-help group, and *The Beat Within*, a San Francisco-based bi-monthly magazine.

The Beat Within began as an idea in a San Francisco courthouse, according to an article in the *Vallejo Times-Herald* by Lanz Christian Bates. It is a publication started in 1996 that has expanded to more than 200 volunteers who operate in juvenile halls across the country. David Inocencio, a San Francisco social worker, told the *Times-Herald* that *The Beat Within* is way for young people to have a voice. He said that he wanted youngsters to be their own storytellers.

Youngsters submit poetry to

sections of the magazine called *Pieces of the Week* and *Co-Pieces of the Week*. The *Standouts* section gives young readers the opportunity to give personal accounts about themselves.

A section called *The Beat Without* has a connotation of the "blues," but its honesty illustrates that young minds are able to clearly identify what troubles them, which is one of the first steps toward change, according to the 12-Step model. Magazine staffers respond to the youngsters' writing by means of a section called *From the Beat*.

As an example: Bones, a young writer, submitted: *What Would Make Me Happier*, "I would be happier if I had my freedom. If I had my freedom and never came back no matter what I did, good or bad. When I come to jail, I stress a lot because I can't see my family. I've been in jail five times and am tired." *From The Beat* responded: "As you well know, there are consequences when you make bad decisions. The flip side of this is that when you make good decisions, you can be rewarded, especially with hard work and



Photo by Christine Remillard

Kid C.A.T. members share their personal stories in hopes of inspiring the troubled youth to change their lives

consistency.

"I think the young people truly benefit from reading the stories and relating to them," Inocencio said in an e-mail interview. "I shared with the young people in San Mateo that we were doing this workshop with men in San Quentin and they were so surprised and looking forward to hearing what Kid C.A.T. members had to say."

Kid C.A.T. members are offenders who were of a young

age when they committed their crimes. However, through their pro-social curriculum they are able to show that they have made progress in becoming responsible and rehabilitated men.

My father — Who is your dad? My anger — What makes you angry? Words from the wise, quote of the week and I am proud — What and/or who are you proud of?

These were prompts that San Quentin's Kid C.A.T. members wrote about at the workshop. Their writings will appear in *The Beat Without* section.

Kid C.A.T. members wrote about what it means to be a good dad and described if they were fathers, the choices they'd make in child rearing. Their responses also addressed understanding anger, how to express it and what drives anger from a personal perspective.

Antoine Brown, 36, said that the workshop was something that he could relate to because he wanted to give the young readers insight into how to make stronger decisions about their lives. "I want to just go from what I feel in my heart," he said about how he decided to answer the prompt.

Brown, who as a juvenile was sentenced as an adult and sent to prison, added, "I found out that

life is full of constant struggles. But I never gave up on myself, realizing that change could only come when I decided to change the condition of impure feelings and thoughts that existed within my heart and mind."

The name Kid C.A.T. conveys the growth of its members from childhood to adulthood while evoking a sense of youthfulness. Its message is that of a mature nature behind the implication of the acronym C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together).

The Kid C.A.T. members say their goal is to "demonstrate the human capacity of redemption, disarming the stigma in relation to youth, crime and incarceration; to work towards restoring that which has been harmed by the men's poor choices, in the form of providing services to inside and outside communities; and to pioneer a community effort of improving social values in regards to youth and what is important to their well-being and development."

"Going forward, with the permission of San Quentin, hopefully we can continue to work together to bring *The Beat Within* writing workshop to Kid C.A.T. on an ongoing basis," said Inocencio. "They're so hungry to engage. We all like to share stories and these men have so much to share."

Juvenile Imprisonment Now Declining Since Tough-On-Crime Laws

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

After two decades of "tough-on-crime" laws and huge surges in juvenile imprisonment, there are now sharp reductions in youth confinement, a national advocacy group reports.

U.S. Justice Department data show youth confinements dropped 41 percent between 2001 and 2011. Several states have cut confinement rates by half or more. Juvenile facilities have closed in a dozen states, with more than 50 closed in the past five years.

The California Division of

Juvenile Justice now houses 800 youth, compared with 10,000 a decade ago.

The report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency sought opinions from a number of important stakeholders regarding the changes, including advocates who had successfully pressured their local justice systems to adopt reforms.

Judges, probation chiefs and district attorneys expressed their beliefs that declining youth crime and rising costs were key drivers of the current trend. The successes were driven by legislation, incentives

built into state budgets, decisions to confine youth close to home and supervision strategies that relied on positive relationships between youth and families.

Even though there has been a drop in incarceration rates overall, many states have seen a higher proportion of youth of color in out-of-home placements and secure facilities. The March report suggests that even the most successful states need to identify and employ new strategies to strengthen links between families and youth in order to reduce out-of-home placements for youth.

Musicians Premal and Miten Perform For a Packed House at San Quentin

By Gino Sevacos
Journalism Guild Writer

Several hundred inmates packed the San Quentin Catholic Chapel, chanting sacred mantras with Deva Premal and her band.

"Spirituality is our theme. Mantras are powerful and they reach out," Premal and partner Miten said later. "We offer tools for meditation and inner peace so that the energy of the mind can be channeled in a good way. Music with mantra stays with you."

The couple has been writing, singing and playing beautiful music together for more than 23 years. They performed on Sept. 12 at San Quentin.

They came as a five-piece band – most of them flying in from Germany – to begin yet another leg of their current U.S. tour.

Having gained global popularity, the group also tours in countries as diverse as England, Spain, Russia, Israel and Australia. To date, they have recorded 17 CDs.

Their musical compositions blend mystical Vedic chants, ethnic melodies and mesmerizing vocal harmonies to create an atmosphere of healing, spacious joy and shared connection.

Highlights included Premal's exquisite voice, Miten's acoustic guitar arpeggios and the exotic sounds from flutist Manose.

Catholic Chaplain George Williams introduced the band. He explained that their perfor-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Deva Premal and her band entertain the audience inside the Catholic chapel

mance was part of the chapel's monthly devotional concert series called "Music from the Heart." The series also includes cultural presentations meant to celebrate different religious and cultural traditions.

As the band began playing,

singing and chanting, a sense of wonder and appreciation filled the audience. The men clapped enthusiastically after each song. Deva gently encouraged them several times not to clap, but settle into the silence. Later into the set, a rich cloak

of silence enveloped and an incredible sense of deep peace permeated the space.

A tender moment surfaced when Miten told a poignant story about a song he wrote called "Native Son." It captured the essence of longing to connect with his son who was thousands of miles away.

Styles of music included reggae, easy listening and blues. At one point an energetic rendition of Mississippi Fred McDowell's "You Gotta Move" thrilled the crowd and a litany of cheers and clapping erupted.

The band's technician, Caroline, called the experience at San Quentin her "favorite show of the year."

In an interview after the 90-minute concert, Premal and Miten expressed their reactions.

"We've performed in other prisons and enjoy the opportunity. We're grateful," Premal said. "We feel a connection with inmates. We see them as beautiful and shining. We look for the dimension of silence where there's no distinction between

us. There's nowhere to go but in. We always feel like we're home – people are all the same everywhere we play."

The band's unified vision is: "Love is the only prayer."

"We began just playing for friends. We played in the moment and it just mushroomed. We never looked at it as a career. We just love what we do."

Reaction from the audience included:

"Last night I had more fun in a church than I did on the streets abusing alcohol and drugs," said Frank Mabry III.

"There were moments during the performance where I was able to let go – felt overwhelmed by the moment – and bawled my eyes out. I felt the love they brought to the moment," said Rudy Camozzi.

"I had body aches, soreness and a headache when I arrived at the event. I was hoping there wasn't going to be a lot of shrieking. When I left, I felt refreshed and my headache was gone. It was a healing experience," said Dan Myers.



Judge Pennypacker Joins the S.Q. News Forums

Continued from Page 1

der. Since he was underage, the authorities did not know what to do with him so he ended up in solitary confinement.

"The first thing I was told [by other inmates] when I went to a level four prison was to learn how to make a knife," Quezada said. "I wanted to change. But it wasn't on my to-do list, because you can't change if you're dead."

All of the inmate experiences at the level four prisons had an element of violence and racial tension.

Clinton Martin, 41, was convicted of murder at the age of 17.

"It was very, very difficult because I was a gang member and thought I was a tough guy," Martin said. "But my mindset was quickly changed after seeing someone killed over a domino game."

Martin said that he wanted to get into programs that would help him change his thinking but none were available at the level four prisons.

He said the parole board denied his release in 2011. His next appearance was scheduled five years later. He said a friend told him that he received the five-year denial for a reason, his unresolved anger issues were clear



Photo by Sam Hearn

Attorney Emma Bradford and Judge Philip Pennypacker exchange ideas about new policies with the staff

to the board members.

"My friend told me to figure it out," Martin said. "The board wanted me to take programs. When realignment happened, I got to San Quentin and all the rehabilitation programs. The programs gave me my humanity."

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter, 32, told Pennypacker and Bradford that the value of human life at a maximum-security prison is "very very small. You never saw a fist fight. People were being stabbed. To defend yourself, you had to have a knife."

Wallace-Stepter said that even though the correctional officers were constantly searching in-

mates for weapons; living in fear made inmates think that they had to have a weapon at all times. "It was a vicious cycle of having to carry a weapon, and getting caught with it," he said.

Inmate Mike Wilson, 60, in his fifth year of incarceration, said that the system is completely broken and needs an overhaul.

"It's been quite a shock. The biggest is the racial divide and all the implications that come with that, coupled with the violence that exists in prison. They're all negative connotations. I feel blessed to be at San Quentin because there's little violence here, and there are a lot of programs."

After hearing several accounts

about prison conditions, violence and racial tension, Judge Pennypacker commented that it might be beneficial for the public to see what is happening inside prisons in real time.

"I think this [the forum] is so valuable," Pennypacker said. "The violence aspect of prison is not on the radar of judges. Every time I sent someone to prison, it was like we kind of gave up."

Pennypacker said whether to send someone to prison or use probation is a difficult decision for judges. He said experienced judges consider factors such as the person's education, family background and need for treatment instead of incarceration. "What can judges do?" he said. "There is a great reluctance to use evidence-based practices."

When the topic changed to rehabilitation and reentry, the inmates talked about the value of the availability of programs to inmates.

"There has to be the willingness to change," said inmate Joe Mason, 53. "However, we need to be connected in a way that we can find a solution for the problems we have. We have to believe in the programs that we're taking for them to work."

Wallace-Stepter said that when he got to prison he realized the value of an education.

"One of the main things about

being at San Quentin is the free higher education. I cannot emphasize how important free education is in prison," Wallace-Stepter said. "I am confident, if you give the people in Pelican Bay free education, the violence will go down, and they'll do the things needed to get out of the hole."

Inmate Robin Guillen, 61, added, "When a man educates himself, what do the numbers say? Once someone taps into who they really are, then the changes happen."

Referring to the inmates attending the forum, inmate Aly Tamboura, 48, said, "There are human assets in here. Getting judges in here and talking to the wealth of knowledge that facilitates programs to guys like me, and helps them, is something that could help bring down the recidivism rates."

Tamboura said that in the unit where he is housed, the inmates have set release dates, not life sentences. Referring to the other inmates at the forum, mostly lifers, he said, "The guys in this room have a recidivism rate of less than 1 percent. Where I'm housed people have a recidivism rate of 60 percent. We need the guys who 'get it' teaching the ones who don't."

—By Kevin D. Sawyer
contributed to this story

Expressing Gratitude From Inside San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes

William Drummond, Britney Johnson, Steve Kerr and Teneise Ferreira smile for the camera



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Robert E. Burton education teachers: Tom Bolema, David Bray and Ms. Williams



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Chris Markham and Claudius Johnson at the Day of Peace event



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Thaddeus receiving an autograph from 49er's Coach Jim Harbaugh

The San Quentin community is thankful for many things, here just a few:

Brittany:
I am most thankful for love and the power that it has to heal. It is so easy to take for granted the comfort of knowing you are loved by someone. In the midst of all the craziness life brings, I've learned to take a moment and drown out all my worry and anxiety with gratefulness. Happy Thanksgiving!

Trenise Ferreira:
This time of year, I am reminded of all the blessings I have had in life. Beyond the obvious things I am thankful for (my parents, family, friends, etc.), I am thankful for the educational endeavors I have had in life. Spending four years at USC was the best thing to happen to me out of high school, and my time there prepared me to excel in graduate school at UC Berkeley.

My graduate program has afforded me the unique opportunity to visit San Quentin every week and to work with the unique men that comprise the San Quentin News staff. My experience at San Quentin has really changed my perspective of California's penal system and has made me acutely aware of the privileges I was granted from birth that have guided me down the path I have taken in life. I have spent nearly a year volunteering at San Quentin, and it truly is one of the best, most humbling life experiences I have ever had.

I am very thankful for the perspective that volunteering at San Quentin has given me.

William Drummond:
In 2011 I taught a PUP class that began my involvement with San Quentin News. Since that time, I have grown as a journalist, as a teacher and as a human being. Could not ask for more.

Ms. Williams:
I love that we have a day on which we can say "Thanks." Truthfully, I have much to be thankful for.

Sevio Gonzales:
Feliz dia de accion de gracias a todo mi familia o cinodias. Amor de mi corozon. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mr. Shimel:
Winning isn't everything, family is, which includes my students in my class room.

Kevin Valvardi:
Despite being in here and so far away from my family and friends, I can still find plenty of reasons to be thankful each day.

Jose G. Camacho:
Thank God for the lovely day of Thanksgiving; that my family and other families may share quality time and eat turkey in abundance.

Abdul Salaam:
I thank Allah, to all praises due for letting me seek peaceful solutions for everything. I give thanks for positive encouragement.

John Vernachio:
Having to come to prison at 55, I am so thankful for all my great experiences in life. Past loves, travel, toys, friends and most of all, family.

Luis Cardenas Orozco:
Saludos para mis hijos, mis hermanos, mi mama, primos y primas, para mis amigos y mi compadre Nau.

Vicente Gómez Galvan:
Envio saludos para mama y papa, para todos mis hermanos, primos, primas, hermanas y sobrinos, para mis cuadas, para Goyo Magana y toda su familia.

Jose Vieyra:
Saludos a todos los seres anorados, queridos y respetados. Con todo carino para la familia y amigos.

Jose Dias:
Les mando saludos a toda la familia y amistades.

Martin Gómez Galvan:
Saludos para toda la familia y amigos.

Guadalupe Aranda:
Saludos para toda la familia alla en Long Beach, CA. aqui estamos dispuestos a cualquier evento para deleitarlos con nuestra música.

Jose Velásquez:
Estimada hermana Maria te manda saludos tu hermano que te quiere mucho.

Upu S. Ama:
I am truly grateful of life's many blessings: family, friends, health, etc. What I am most thankful for today are the many people whom have been instrumental in my rehabilitation process. From the outside community members who reaches back with a helping hand to the inside community members who has been just as helpful. Being here at S.Q. I am reminded thru my peers on Death Row as well as my peers that I have lost along the way, that I have been blessed with a special opportunity, an opportunity to better myself; to help better those around me, and together help better our community. For that, I am truly thankful for such an opportunity!

Somsak Uppasay:
I have been blessed to have an extraordinary support team of friends and family



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Andrew Vance and Richard "Richie" Morris chillin on the Day of Peace on the Lower Yard



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Somsak Uppasay Manuel Sanchez Murillo



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Osibun Walton Danny Chavarria



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Photo by Sam Hearnes

Frankie Smith Kara Urion

who have stood by me during my time of great need. And so I would like to express my deepest respect, love and appreciation for their unconditional love, especially my parents and sisters who have never given up hope on me even when I did not believe in myself. Their positively, humble spirit and attitude have provided me with a new set of eyes, mind, and heart. I owe so much to them as my family. I am so humbly appreciative to each and every one of you for the sweat, the struggles and the sacrifices you have made on my behalf.

Although I am haunted by the grief, shame and guilt within my heart for the harm that I have caused to an innocent life, I am rather thankful to be able to have the opportunity, an opportunity to which I do not serve, to learn and grow into a decent human being.

Through this tragic experience created by my actions, I have learned to have faith in myself and overcome my fears of disappointing my friends. I have utilized the course of this experience as a life lesson to help me become a better person, a better brother, a better son, and a better human being.

Thaddeus:
I'm thankful to be here at San Quentin so I can take advantage of all the self-help programs and basketball games with positive folks from society.

Frankie Smith:
I'm thankful for surviving cancer twice and living another day. I'm thankful for God allowing me to see this day for what it really is, a true blessing.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guadalupe Aranda, Jose Dias, Jose Vieyra, Martin Gomez Galvan, Luis Cardenas Orozco, Vicente Gomez Galvan Bottom: Jose Velasquez

Kara Urion:

I am grateful for the endeavors of the San Quentin News and I am incredibly grateful for the community here at San Quentin. In particular, this year I would like to give thanks for the life and teachings of Bishop M. Thomas Shaw.

Chris Markham:

I'm thankful for God allowing me to see this day for what it really is - a true blessing.

Johnny Gomez:

The thing I am most thankful for is that after being away from home for 18 years is that I still have the love and respect from my son Johnny Jr.

Andrew Vance:

Thanksgiving is a day for thanking everyone who has given.

Richie Morris:

Thanksgiving is a time to remember the great blessings we enjoy, being thankful for family.

Mike Endres:

I am thankful for my mom Pearl, my sister Vonda, my nephew Eddie, my niece Amy, and my friends Rich and Brenda, for all their love and support.

Claudius Johnson:

I am truly thankful to be alive and to be reborn in my way of thinking. All praises to the lord father.

Eric Wilson:

I give thanks that I was able to survive my prison experience mentally. I was able to be found suitable and re-enter society again.

Roger Chavez:

I would like to give thanks to my God, my parents and all my family members. Thank you for supporting me through out the years of my incarceration.

Adnan Khan:

I am thankful for the education and opportunities San Quentin offers, which fulfilled my lifelong quest for purpose in life.

Dwight Krizman:

Being thankful has become a way of living for me. Even in prison I can choose to live in gratitude. Life for me is as it should be...simply because it is.

Bob Kaser:

I am thankful for my family and friends, and especially for my recovery in the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. And for the serenity prayers.

Vichau:

I want to give thanks to the Chau family for being there and supporting me, Much Love.

Louie Light:

I'd like to give thanks to my loving family who's always supported me, no matter the circumstances. And most of all my caring girlfriend Jo who's give me nothing but love, respect and devotion in our relationship.

Sonny Nguyen:

Thanksgiving reminds me of all the blessings I have in my life. Thankful for the family and friends who support me in my life.

Ricky Gaines:

Thanksgiving always reminds me to count my blessings and not my problems. To be thankful for life, family and opportunity.

Osibun Walton:

I am truly thankful for Mr. Shimel and the inmate student assistance and the outside tutors. I also give thanks for the Tuesday and Thursday night classes because both inmates and outside tutors truly makes a difference in my education.

Salvador Solorio:

There is much to be thankful for. Even though I am imprisoned, I know that things could be a lot worse for me. Prison food at times sucks, but I am thankful for every meal I get, even a Thanksgiving meal at San Quentin.

Nate Collins:

I am thankful for good health and being at an institution I can address my core issues. I am thankful to be around positive like-minded people.

Rob Ritchie:

I am really thankful for my great health. I am thankful for my family that supports me through all my time of incarceration. And I am thankful I am in a prison where I don't have to carry a knife.

Wade E. Mormon:

I am thankful for the outside tutors That educate us, and also the professional athletes that come in, and lastly I am thankful my good buddy Sal that helps me with my guitar.

Damon Cooke:

I'm grateful and thankful for everyone who has helped me re-establish my direction, focus and drive. Today with your help, I am a new man.

Darrell "Waylo" Williams:

I'm thankful for having my family with me through this trial and tribulations in my life.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dwight Krizman inside the Protestant Chapel



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Golden State Warrior's Luke Walton and Upu S. Ama on S.Q.'s Lower Yard basketball court



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Bob Kaser and Johnny Gomez: members of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Derrick Kualapai, Reginald Hola and Damon Cooke at the Native American banquet



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kevin Demings, Darrell "Waylo" Williams, Eddie and Juan Arballo

Women Build Their Future Careers With Technical Education Programs

By Krissi Khokhobashvili
CDCR Public Information Officer

Fifty-five incarcerated women are well on their way to a rehabilitation “home run.”

Dozens of women received vocational certificates from the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), which provides productive work assignments for approximately 8,000 offenders in California. These particular women, all offenders at Folsom Women’s Facility (FWF), earned certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry, Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor, Computer-Aided Design, Facilities Maintenance, Customer Service Representative Training and Warehouse and Logistics Training.

FWF Associate Warden Robin Harrington likened the women’s efforts to playing baseball.

“The home run has been hit, but you’ve got to run the bases,” she told the graduates. “The run doesn’t count until you run the bases and make that score. You all are running the bases, and you are making big things happen, big changes in your life.”

Through a partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), CALPIA provides thousands of inmates the opportunity to participate in life-changing rehabilitative programs, all of which are aimed at reducing recidivism while keeping prisons and communities safe. Rosetta Turturici, who graduated with certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Construction Labor, said she has no plans to come back to prison after she goes home in 2016.

“Now with this training, I know that I can automatically go into the union and be offered a construction job,” she said, proudly holding her signature pink CALPIA construction hard hat. “I know that I won’t be judged for what I was, but for who I am today.”

FWF’s A Yard was filled with not only graduates, but also family members, instructors, union representatives, officials from CDCR and CALPIA, and other female inmates cheering them



Photos courtesy of Alan Barrett

Ronnica Reynolds proudly displays her certificate in Computer-Aided Design. She is flanked by Chief Deputy Warden Lydia Romero, Warden Ron Rackley, CDCR Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs Director Millicent Tidwell, Associate Warden Robin Harrington, State Senator Holly Mitchell and Female Offenders Programs and Services Associate Director Jay Virbel. CALPIA General Manager Chuck Patillo in the background

on. State Senator Holly Mitchell, who represents the 26th Senate District and serves as chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and Select Committee on Women and Inequality, shared words of encouragement with the crowd as keynote speaker. She pointed out that women continue to struggle with job security and equality, and that women of color in particular have not seen improvement in their unemployment rate.

“You have taken your first step to defy that statistic and defy that odd,” Mitchell told the graduates. “Being released from here, from the programs here, with specific training for careers and jobs that are available on the outside with your certificates, suggests that you are in a position to get in front of the line for many of the women on the outside looking for jobs – because of the time you spent and the commitment you made to yourself and this program.”

Mitchell said she attended

an international convention of women who work in the building trades, and had her “mind blown” by the professional opportunities and salaries the women had. Many of those women, she said, started in programs very similar to what CALPIA and CDCR offer.

“You need to recognize that you are an amazing force of nature,” she said. “Which means that you are in control of who? You. And so you have the power to make the decision about what your future looks like.”

CALPIA General Manager Chuck Pattillo said FWF represents one of the highest percentages of inmates participating in CALPIA programs in a prison, and that the women graduating are role models for their peers considering joining a program. He praised the women for their hard work and wished them success when they go home.

“We want you to be good mothers, good sisters, good workers, especially because we know that

you’ve got a leg up on everybody else as you get out of prison.”

It’s been proven time and again that rehabilitative programs result in fewer returns to prison. Pattillo pointed out that CALPIA Career Technical Education (CTE) programs have a cumulative recidivism rate of about 7 percent, significantly lower than the statewide average. That results in millions of dollars of taxpayer savings.

“We love seeing you, but I will be very honest, we really never want to see you again,” Pattillo said, drawing laughter from the crowd.

CALPIA contracted with CDCR’s Division of Rehabilitative Programs this year for \$2 million to provide 12 CTE programs statewide. The partnership provides programs that positively influence not only the offenders’ lives, but also the lives of their families, and reduces the number of people victimized by crime.

“I recognize that it is no small

task for you to turn your life around, but the women graduating here today have made that decision and have taken concrete steps to reach those goals,” said Millicent Tidwell, Director of DRP. “The certificates that you’re going to receive today will allow you to continue to take those positive steps in your future.”

Inmate Caitlin Churchill, who was joined by her mother, grandmother and aunt for the graduation, proudly pointed out that her name was listed twice on the program. Churchill earned certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor.

“I’m overwhelmingly proud,” said her mom, Michele Hofer. “She has been working on this for a very long time, and I love hearing the officers praise her work.”

“This program has been invaluable,” Churchill shared. “They have taught us not only trade skills, but life skills. Our instructors have shown us how to work through instances where we thought we weren’t capable of handling the situation. They helped us push through, they’ve given us courage, they’ve given us confidence to be successful.”

Roy Bergerson, a CALPIA construction labor instructor from the Laborers Local 185 labor union, said that not only are women able to thrive in the industry, they are also in high demand.

“These women will leave as an apprentice and in time they’ll become journeymen,” he said. “We’ve had women who were released before who are currently working right now.”

“It’s a miracle program,” he added. “This program here gives an opportunity for a person who needs a second or third chance the ability to live the dream.”



Photos by Alan Barrett

Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor graduates proudly wear their signature pink CALPIA hard hats

Raising Compassionate Young Boys to Adulthood

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

“The language of marriage is often the language of ownership, rather than the language of partnership. We use the word ‘respect’ to mean something a woman shows a man, but not often something a man shows a woman.” – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nigerian author and feminist.

There exists inside every young boy a compassion that must be cultivated and nurtured into adulthood. How is that compassion translated? What societal responsibilities do we have to the younger generations? Moreover, what personal responsibility do we bear as fa-

thers and OGs? While it certainly does take a village to raise a child, when it comes to raising a male child fathers should be at the forefront of teaching young boys the universal value of having respect for themselves and the opposite sex. Fathers should engage their sons in active conversations about gender equality. These lessons are best learned by example. In today’s society, our young men are constantly bombard-

ed with words and images of women that construct their idea of what it means to be a man. Therefore it’s crucial that we begin any discussion of manhood by first understanding the social context in which these notions of gender and masculinity are formed. In early September, Baltimore Raven football player Ray Rice was caught on tape knocking his fiancée unconscious and dragging her body from an elevator. Though Rice publicly apologized for his actions, the question of how and to what degree he should be punished by the NFL is being challenged in court. As of this writing, he is suspended indefinitely. Here at San Quentin, during discussions about this incident, some prisoners recognized that Rice’s abuse was indisputably wrong. However, some went on to ask what she might have done to provoke or anger her fiancé. These damaging responses result from the fact that young

males grow accustomed to the idea that women are inherently guilty. We often send messages to young men that being brutal without self-control is acceptable while we teach girls shame. Often women are taught that they are naturally inferior to men simply by being born female. Girls grow to be women whose opinions are not as valued, who cannot say what they truly think or feel, and believe they must cater to the needs of men. Not only are women silenced or their opinions ignored, but women are objectified, their bodies used to sell anything from cars to cottage cheese. Objectification devalues the female contribution to society. Exposed to this, women often unwillingly become complicit with their own oppression. Despite the fact that women make up 51 percent of the planet, men often perceive the role of the female as marginal. Governments and organizational heads are predominately male. Women still make 77 cents on the dollar compared to men for the exact same position. What is that about? And how does it persist?

Reflecting on my complicity in female gender vilification, I came to several conclusions: I would usually laugh, remain silent and/or repeat sexist remarks acceptable within my circle of friends. Although racial epithets offended me, sexist remarks were not as degrading; they were less demeaning. It was not until I reflected upon my experiences that I made this distinction. Fathers, OGs and men should actively engage in conversation about gender inequality, particularly the wrongful way in which women are often portrayed by society. Young boys should be taught from the onset that reducing women to mere body parts (legs, vaginas, butts, breasts, etc.) is sexist, inaccurate and wrong, and damaging to the very intimacy and depth of relationship that human beings need. A good way to begin is with men becoming aware of and taking full responsibility for how we demean girls and women. We must find the moral courage to speak up and out against gender discrimination in its various forms.

A Testimonial Account of Prisoners’ Journey with Christianity

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Kathleen Jackson never imagined she’d be vouching for a room full of men doing time for crimes ranging from kidnap to murder. Still, she takes on this mission in *Bind the Testimony*, a new collection of 19 testimonies from San Quentin State Prison that presents the stories of criminals in a new light, and their own words. “In my wildest imagination, I could not have pictured myself as part of that scene,” Jackson writes in the book’s introduction. “And yet I have been sitting in such a circle at San

BOOK REVIEW

Quentin State Prison, facilitating the Christian Creative Writing Class, for over two years, loving every moment and marveling at the men’s intensity.” The public has a certain conception of prison. Your average civilian would tell you prisons are not for “nice people” and “bad things” happen there. But that’s just part of the picture. In this collection, Jackson asks the public to reevaluate these generalizations. She leaves it to readers to decide whether

listening to a bunch of convicts calling themselves Christians is worth the time and effort. Jackson’s course on creative writing allowed her students to address questions of spirituality on their own terms and through their own life experiences. Writing about their troubled pasts, it turns out, helped them finally come to terms with past mistakes. Cole Young is doing a life term for second-degree murder. He has been locked up since 1995. His story, *An Up-*

hill Battle, is jam-packed with self-inflicted pain and suffering, coupled with the deaths of loved ones during his incarceration. Young’s incredible saga takes readers on a frightful journey that ends when he finds his salvation. Finding God, he says, allowed him to come to terms with his identity and gave meaning to his day-to-day life. Minor crime to minor crime turned into a Three Strike sentence for drifter James Earl Vick. Vick comes from the poorest state in the United States, Mississippi. He writes about how poverty and a traumatic upbringing led him to a series of bad decisions in his essay *Counted Among the Saints*. Vick’s story indicates that he is not just a criminal, but also a victim of circumstance. All the essays grapple with spirituality and its role in inmates’ lives.

“Prison has brought out the worst in me,” writes Syyen Hong in *Not an Easy Walk*. “I never really considered the consequences behind my actions because, in reality, I didn’t care. I was miserable; I hated my life, and sometimes even wished for death.” Hong had spent years miserable at San Quentin when another Christian encouraged him to attend church and explore religion more deeply. After this, he had a total turnaround. His story of spiritual redemption, even while in prison, shows that finding meaning is possible anywhere and at anytime. Religion also offered relief to Raymond Gaddis, who is serving a life sentence for murder. Prison life took its toll on Gaddis. He said that at one point, he collected more than 200 sleeping pills and took them all in an attempt to kill himself. “I was a self-centered, selfish coward,” Gaddis said. “God, on the other hand, had a different plan.” After his suicide attempt failed, Gaddis received reasons to live a spiritually based life from friends and family. Understanding the reward of having patience with himself, not giving up and putting one foot in front of the other each day is Gaddis’ story. The effect that spirituality has on rehabilitation is profound. Writing about it when it’s happening is even more powerful. Other writers: Elliott Beverly: *Rescued by His Grace*, Mark “Lucky” Edwards: *A Dad’s Only Son*, James Metters: *Amazing Grace*, Simon: *Never Turning His Back*, Curtis Roberts: *What’s Next, Papa?*, Bryant Harrison: *Destiny*, Kenneth “Musa” Bailey: *The Prescription*, A. Kevin Valvardi: *Born Again Catholic*, Joel Dillard: *Full Circle*, Jeffery Williams: *Freedom From the Inside*, Henry Poe: *The Lord was with me all Along*, Douglas “Jimmy” Manns: *Come as you are and Zitsue Lee: Please God, Abandon Me*.

Identifying With Two Different Lives

MOVIE REVIEW

By SQ Reviews

Critics reviled Director McG’s *3 Days to Kill*, but the movie struck a place of resonance with SQ Reviews. In *3 Days to Kill*, Kevin Costner plays a CIA assassin named Ethan Renner. He has spent his life choosing career over family, but when Ethan discovers he has cancer, he retires and dedicates the remainder of his time to reconnecting with his ex-wife (played by Connie Nielson) and daughter (played by Hailee Steinfeld). He promises his ex-wife that he is finished with his work, but when femme fatale Vivi Delay (Amber Heard) offers a miraculous cancer treatment in exchange for another assassination, Ethan finds himself juggling work and family once

again. The movie’s attempts at sexiness with leather-clad characters like Vivi Delay come off as cheap, and caricatures of foreigners reflect either the director’s lack of imagination or his lack of respect for his viewer’s imagination. When SQ Reviews sits down in the back lot behind the Education Department to talk, we are aware of the director’s artistic failings. It quickly becomes clear, however, that Ethan Renner’s struggle to make the right decisions is our struggle. His victory when he wakes up and chooses his family, when his family chooses him, is our victory. “I think it was a good idea poorly executed,” Emile DeWeaver says. He wears glasses with brown rims and seems to

smile for no reason. “The story strived for something worthwhile though.” “I think whoever made this movie would like you to *think* there’s some redeeming value,” said Erin O’Connor who is also 6’4” with a narrow mouth and jaw that makes him look furious even when his face is at parade rest. “But what’s redeeming about a guy killing everybody?” Rashaan Thomas sits a little straighter. He is from New York, and he would look like Spike Lee if Spike Lee was Puerto Rican and tall. “I’ve done some wicked stuff, man, doesn’t mean I don’t love my kids. I feel the dude. He’s killing people for his country, thinking he’s making the world a better place for his family.” “He’s doing the wrong thing for the right reasons,” Miguel

Quezada says. “I used to tell myself stuff like that all the time,” Thomas continues. “I felt like I had to take care of my kids. I didn’t want them to suffer like I’d suffered. So, I got them trust funds and all kind of crazy stuff. I thought I had to get them out the hood. But, it’s crazy; everything I tried to get for them, they didn’t need. I went to prison, lost everything, and they made it without any of that trust fund stuff. My son hit me with that once, and it messes me up. He didn’t need that stuff. He just needed me there.” Thomas emphasizes his words by repeatedly raising his hand and throwing it toward the ground. The atmosphere swims with Thomas’ regret. If the rest of us add ours, we will all drown in our collective disappointments. We averaged out our ratings, and on a scale of one to five dinner cookies, *3 Days to Kill* rates two and a half cookies. Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Erin O’ Connor, Juan Meza, Miguel Quezada, Rashaan Thomas and Tommy Winfrey

Public Defender Throws Last Resort Lifeline to Nevada Death Row Inmates

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

In a state with a per capita death penalty rate that ranks fourth in the country, inmates on Nevada's Death Row can always call on their friend Michael Pescetta.

"Pescetta, an assistant federal public defender in Las Vegas who specializes in capital punishment cases, is often a final resort for inmates who have exhausted their options at the state level to appeal a death penalty conviction," the *Las Vegas Sun* reported.

He has provided legal representation for dozens of defendants facing Nevada's often-imposed yet seldom-used death penalty. "Today, his office represents more than half of the 83 men sitting on Death Row," according to the *Sun*.

In a recent interview, Pescetta spoke with the *Sun* about Richard Moran, who was executed in 1996. He was a client who committed multiple murders while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Pescetta seemed surprised how this case went very quickly through the system.

Jesse Bishop was the first volunteer executed in Nevada in 1979. Pescetta told the *Sun*, "He committed offenses in 1977, and was executed less than two years from the date of his offense.

According to Pescetta, 11 defendants "volunteered" to die. These people "gave up any further appeals and asked to be executed."

When pressed to explain why a defendant volunteers to be executed, Pescetta told the *Sun*, "People often start out suicidal. They ask the police to shoot them. It's like a slow version of

suicide by cop." Furthermore, he believes "most people on Death Row have mental health issues."

After botched executions in three other states, Nevada's officials are now scrambling to complete a mandatory legislative audit of the death penalty by Jan. 31, 2015.

No one has been executed in Nevada since 2006. When asked to explain why, he told the *Sun* "Botched executions in Ohio, Oklahoma and Arizona in recent months could lead to more scrutiny about the process locally."

The *Sun* reported three drugs, "sodium thiopental, which is an anesthetic, pancuronium bromide, which is paralytic, and potassium chloride, which is what stops the heart," have raised concern about their use.

Pescetta told the *Sun*, "All of

those drugs, if the state has them at the time, have a shelf life that we would be past now. And, as I understand, the execution protocol in effect at the time was that the state got the drugs for the execution when the execution was pending. They did not keep those drugs on hand."

"The ratio of Death Row inmates to lawyers is significantly high. We have such a small bar compared to bigger states. There's less legal talent available to do criminal work"

In the recent executions in Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma, sodium thiopental was not available. According to Pescetta, "they have been using different drugs, sometimes one drug, sometimes two drugs." He believes, "They're essentially experimenting."

"The willingness of manufacturers and suppliers to supply them is very different now than it used to be," Pescetta said. There are not many drugs available today.

"How prepared is the state to execute someone again?" the *Sun* reporter asked. "Pescetta said it is unknown what kind of execution protocol the Nevada Department of Corrections would use if an execution were scheduled."

However, he said, "The old protocol specified these three drugs had traditionally been used."

When asked, "Where do most death penalty cases originate in Nevada? Is it significant that the state's per capita ratio is relatively high compared with other places?" Pescetta said, "No other county in the state has as many death penalty cases as Clark County. There probably aren't more than three or four in the entire rest of the state."

He told the *Sun*, "The ratio of Death Row inmates to lawyers is significantly high. We have such a small bar compared to bigger states. There's less legal talent available to do criminal work."

Nevada's Death Row is located at Ely State Prison, a maximum-security facility where inmates waiting to be executed live in single cells. "Contact with other inmates is limited. Most people in there spend 23 hours a day in a cell," Pescetta said. "This is not like being out in the yard with other inmates."

Ex-Gang Member Dedicates His Life to Helping Youth

By Lee Jaspur
Journalism Guild Writer

Willie Stokes, an ex-gangster from East Salinas, has re-dedicated his life to saving kids.

Stokes spent much of his childhood in and out of juvenile hall, according to an article by Joel Hersch in the *Santa Cruz Good Times Weekly*.

After 17 years in and out of the prison system, including 10 years at Pelican Bay, Stokes, now 43, asked himself, "Look at what you're doing. Is it worth it?"

Stokes chose to become the executive director of the Salinas-based gang intervention nonprofit "Black Sheep Redemption Program;" (BSRP).

He said his decision to drop out of the gang life means there will always be a target on his back.

"I'm not afraid, but I'm not stupid either," Stokes told Hersch. "I was willing to die for that stupidity, so why shouldn't I be willing to die for something that can save kids?"

Stokes explained that having personally used powerful indoctrination tactics to rope



Willie Stokes interacts with the youth at a Black Sheep Redemption Program

kids into the gang mentality, he is now able to use the same methods to influence youth in positive ways.

Inspector Mario Sulay of the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's anti-crime team, which includes the gang and narcotics task forces, has

worked with Stokes numerous times and is impressed with his work.

Sulay told *GT Weekly*, "I hold Willie Stokes in very high regard. I think he is somebody who can relate to some of these at-risk youth because he's come from there."

States Choose Ways To Compensate the Wrongfully Convicted

By Nathan Hall
Journalism Guild Writer

States have a variety of ways to compensate persons determined to be innocent of crimes for which they were wrongfully convicted, NPR.com reports.

Twenty-one states provide no money, but the former prisoner can sue for compensation. Some former prisoners have been awarded \$1 million for each year they served in prison, NPR said.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia pay on an individual case basis.

Seventeen states pay a fixed amount for each year of imprisonment, ranging from \$80,000

per year in Texas and \$70,000 in Colorado to \$5,000 in Wisconsin. California pays \$36,500 per year.

Several states and the federal government pay \$50,000 for each year of wrongful incarceration. The states are Alabama, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina and Washington.

The fixed amounts usually require a former prisoner to agree not to take the case to court.

States that pay the wrongfully convicted might actually be trying to save money, according to Brandon Garrett, University of Virginia law professor and author of *Convicting the Innocent*.

Supreme Court Slightly Tightens Standards for Executing Mentally Disabled Prisoners

The U.S. Supreme Court has voted 5-4 to set new standards for executing mentally disabled prisoners.

The May 27 ruling requires a new capital punishment trial for a Florida inmate who scored 71 on an IQ test, *Reuters* reported. Florida's law had said 70 or less indicates mental disability.

The ruling noted the IQ test contains a five-point margin of error, meaning the 71 score could have meant a real level of

66 to 76.

"Florida's law contravenes our nation's commitment to dignity and its duty to teach human decency as the mark of a civilized world," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote on behalf of the majority.

"The strict IQ rule struck down by the Supreme Court today is just one example of the many ways in which our state's death penalty system falls short of constitutional and human rights standards,"

said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Florida had initially determined in 1992 that Freddie Lee Hall, 68, was mentally disabled when he shot and killed a sheriff's deputy and a woman seven months pregnant.

"The Supreme Court concluded that states should defer to the clinical consensus for determining whether people are mentally disabled," *Reuters* reported.

The American Psychiatric Association found that IQ tests should include a "standard error of measurement of five percentage points, meaning results could vary that much either higher or lower," Hall's attorneys said. Florida's test did not take into account this standard of review.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing on behalf of the four dissenters, wrote that the court had embraced a "uniform national rule that is both conceptually

unsound and likely to result in confusion."

Florida's Republican attorney general, Pan Bondi, declined to comment, saying, "Officials were reviewing the decision."

John H. Blume, Cornell Law School professor, found that only approximately 10 Death Row inmates with borderline IQ scores stand to benefit immediately from the Supreme Court decision.

-By Charles David Henry

Ley Proposición 47 Aprobada para la Re-clasificación de cargos por Felonías

En los primeros diez condados afectados por la Proposición 47, el promedio de ahorro mas bajo de cada condado es de un \$28.5 millones y el mas alto en \$49.9 millones

Por Juan Haines
Director de Redacción

En el día de las elecciones el partido Demócrata arrasó en todas las posiciones de liderazgo en Sacramento. 58% de los electores de California dijeron que un número de crímenes previamente tratados como felonías ahora son delitos menores.

La proposición 47 aprobada en Noviembre 4, causando que el castigo de ciertos crímenes sean reducidos, incluyendo algunas ofensas por posesión de droga, robo menor, recibir propiedad robada y falsificación/ escribir cheques sin fondo siempre y cuando la cantidad sea de \$950 o menor.

Conocida como la acción Escuelas y Vecindades Seguras, personas con condenas previas por crímenes como asalto sexual, asesinato o abuso sexual a menores son excluidos, al igual que los delinquentes sexuales registrados. Para estas personas la ofensa seguirá siendo una felonía.

Ofensores que actualmente están cumpliendo condenas por los crímenes previamente mencionados tendrán la oportunidad de aparecer ante un juez para que sus sentencias

sean reducidas aun término equivalente a un delito menor. Para que un recluso sea beneficiado por la Proposición 47, una revisión completa del historial criminal del recluso y un asesoramiento del riesgo de peligrosidad deberá llevarse a cabo. Esto es necesario para garantizar que ellos “no posean un riesgo para la sociedad,” de acuerdo a un reporte por Californianos Unidos para un Presupuesto Responsable (CURB).

EL Departamento de Rehabilitación Correccional de California (CDCR), estima que aproximadamente 4,770 reclusos de las prisiones estatales (a la fecha Nov. 4) serán elegibles para pedir a la corte que los resentencien, de acuerdo con la oficina de prensa del CDCR.

La Oficina Analista Legislativa (LAO) estima que 40,000 personas son anualmente encontradas culpables de los crímenes especificados y serán afectados por esta disposición, pero se reconoce que esta estimación puede ser incorrecta por varios miles.

“Si estas ofensas llegan a ser delitos menores, la mayoría del las personas culpables de estas ofensas ya no serán elegibles para la prisión es-

tatal, dando como resultado una continua caída de varios miles en la población de la prisión,” el Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal reveló un estudio efectuados en el mes de Septiembre. Los ahorros de la reducción poblacional de las prisiones aunado a la reducción de la carga en las cortes estatales estaría “apenas pasando los cientos de millones de dólares anualmente,” concluyo el LAO. En un estudio subsiguiente en el mes de Octubre, CJCJ menciona que la Proposición 47 daría como resultado que de un 10,000 a 30,000 camas podrían estar desocupadas en las cárceles a lo largo del estado, lo cual se traduce en un ahorro anual en el condado de \$400 millones a 700 millones.

El dinero ahorrado al implementar esta medida será distribuida de la siguiente manera: 25% al Departamento de Educación para reducir la vagancia escolar, apoyar estudiantes que están en riesgo o víctimas de crímenes. 10% ira a la Compensación de Víctimas y para el Consejo de Demandas de Gobierno para los centros de recuperación del trauma. 65% ira al Consejo Estatal y Correcciones de las Comunidad

para concesiones a agencias
publicas que proveen terapia
de salud mental y tratamiento
para el abuso de sustancias con
el fin de reducir la reincidencia
en el sistema judicial.

Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal – Tres Condados:

El Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal (CJ CJ) examinó los condados de Los Ángeles, San Diego y San Joaquín para determinar la cantidad de dinero que cada uno ahorraría como consecuencia de la aprobación de la Proposición 47.

“El condado de los Ángeles ahorraría entre \$99.9 millones y \$174.8 millones, el condado de San Diego entre \$28.4 millones y 49.7 millones, y el condado de San Joaquín entre \$6.8 millones y \$12.0 millones,” anualmente de acuerdo a CJCJ.

El análisis de ahorros del CJCJ contabilizó por las camas vacías que serán creadas en los tres condados por la reducción de condenas por felonías. Todas estas camas necesariamente no quedarán vacías debido a que muchos condados batallan con la sobrepoblación en sus cárceles. Ellos probablemente usen una porción de las camas para reducir la liberación temprana de presos. A través de California, más de

10,000 personas son liberadas temprano de la cárcel cada mes para aliviar la sobrepoblación. Esto incluye aproximadamente 1,500 personas en el Condado de los Ángeles, 900 en el Condado de San Diego, y 500 en el Condado de San Joaquín, de acuerdo a la Comisión del Estado y Desarrollo de la Comunidad.

En los primeros diez condados afectados por la Proposición 47, el promedio de ahorro mas bajo de cada condado es de un \$28.5 millones y el mas alto en \$49.9 millones. Ver, La Tabla de los Primeros Diez Condados de California

De acuerdo al CURB "California tiene un historial de definir la póliza de la justicia criminal a través de la iniciativa del voto." La CURB reporta que la medida incluye "disposiciones para apelar el racismo y ha fortalecido aspectos políticos que 'son estrictos en crimen.' Algunas disposiciones refuerzan el uso de pólizas que dañan a las comunidades de color al desviar los fondos del estado en programas cuestionables para la 'prevención del crimen.'"

-Traducción por Marco Villa
y Tare Beltranchuc/ Samantha
Santa Maria

Proposition 47 Passed to Modify Strict Laws

Continued from Page 1

public," according to a report by Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB).

CDCR PRESS

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) estimates that approximately 4,770 state prison inmates (as of Nov. 4) would be eligible to petition a court for resentencing, according to the CDCR press office.

LAO

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates that about 40,000 people are convicted yearly of the specified crimes and would be affected by the measure but acknowledges this estimate may be off by several thousand.

CJCJ

“Should these offenses become misdemeanors, most people convicted of the offenses would no longer be eligible for state prison, resulting in an ongoing drop of several thousand in the prison population,” the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) reported in a September study. The savings from reduced prison populations and reduced burdens on state courts would be in “the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually,” the LAO con-

cluded. In a subsequent study in October, CJCJ said that Proposition 47 would result in 10,000 to 30,000 jail beds potentially freed across the state, which translates to annual county savings of \$400 million to \$700 million.

The money saved from implementing the measure would be distributed as follows: 25 percent to the Department of Education to reduce truancy and support at-risk students or victims of crime, 10 percent to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for trauma recovery centers, and 65 percent to the Board of State and Community Correction for grants to public agencies providing mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment to reduce recidivism of people in the justice system.

Center on Juvenile and
Criminal Justice — Three
Counties:

CJJC examined Los Angeles, San Diego and San Joaquin counties to determine the dollar amount each could save because of the passage of Proposition 47.

“Los Angeles County should save between \$99.9 million and \$174.8 million, San Diego County between \$28.4 million and \$49.7 million, and San Joaquin County between \$6.8 million and \$12.0 million,” annually according to CJCJ.

The CJCJ savings analysis accounted for the empty beds

that the three counties would be created because of the fewer felony convictions. All of these beds would not necessarily be empty; many counties struggle with jail overcrowding. They would likely use a portion of the beds to reduce early releases. Across California, more than 10,000 people are released early from jail each month to relieve crowding. This includes approximately 1,500 people in

Los Angeles County, 900 in San Diego County and 500 in San Joaquin County, according to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

In the top ten counties affected by Proposition 47, the average savings for each county is a low of \$28.5 million and a high of \$49.9 million. See, Top Ten California Counties Table.

According to CURB, "California has a history of defin-

ing criminal justice policy through ballot initiatives.” CURB reported that the measure includes “provisions that appeal to racism, and have strengthened aspects of ‘tough on crime’ politics. Some provisions reinforce ‘business as usual’ policy practices that harm communities of color by funneling state funds into destructive questionable ‘crime prevention’ programs.”

—By Juan Haines

TOP TEN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES POTENTIAL ANNUAL LOCAL SAVINGS AND JAIL BEDS FREED FROM PROPOSITION 47 COMPILED BY CENTER ON JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (BUCHEN/MALES 2014)							
	Savings (millions)		Jail Beds Freed		Jail Beds Freed as % of ADP		PROP 47 AFFECTED
COUNTY	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	PEOPLE
Los Angeles	\$99.9	\$174.8	2,497	7,490	14%	41%	9,986
San Bernardino	\$32.7	\$57.2	818	2,453	15%	44%	3,270
Orange	\$29.7	\$51.9	741	2,224	11%	33%	2,966
San Diego	\$28.4	\$49.7	710	2,131	13%	40%	2,841
Riverside	\$24.1	\$42.2	603	1,808	15%	46%	2,411
Fresno	\$16.1	\$28.1	402	1,205	14%	43%	1,607
Sacramento	\$15.6	\$27.3	390	1,171	10%	31%	1,561
Kern	\$15.3	\$26.7	382	1,146	15%	44%	1,528
Alameda	\$11.8	\$20.6	294	883	9%	27%	1,178
Contra Costa	\$11.0	\$19.3	276	827	19%	57%	1,103
Average Totals:	\$28.5	\$49.9	711	2,134	13.5%	40.6%	28,451 Total Affected

Sources: Legislative Analyst's Office (2014); Criminal Justice Statistics Center (2013); Dept. Of Justice (2014) ADP: Average Daily Population

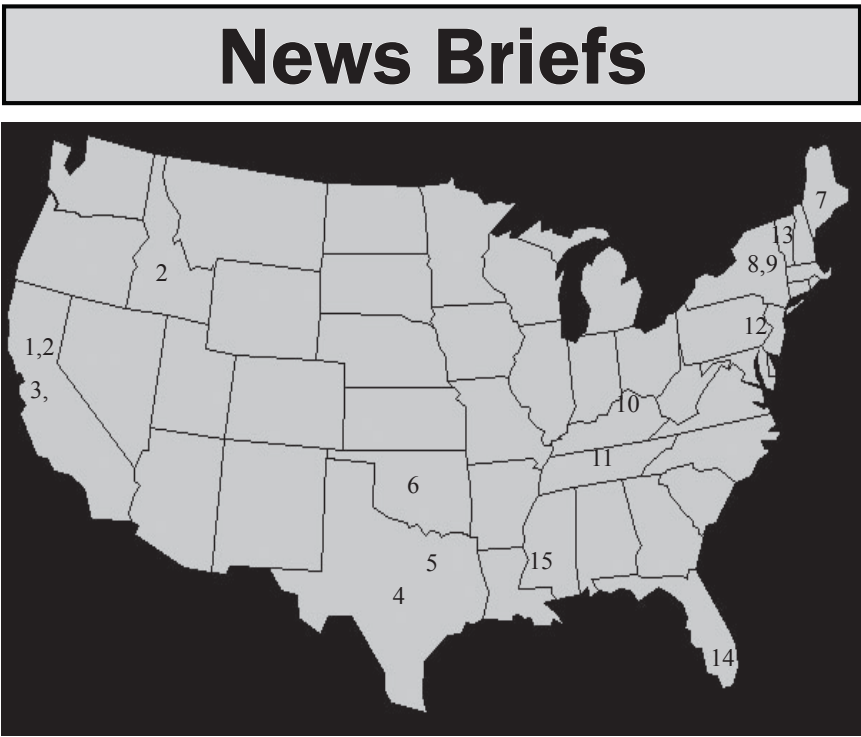
1. Sacramento—Death penalty support is at its lowest point in nearly 50 years in California, *The Sacramento Bee* reported. However, 56 percent of the state’s registered voters still believe the death penalty should be kept as a possible punishment for serious crimes, with 34 percent opposed and 10 percent undecided, a new Field Poll shows.

2. Sacramento—Chuck Supple, 56, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Board of Parole Hearings, Juvenile Division. Supple has a master of public administration degree from Harvard University. This position requires Senate confirmation and the annual compensation is \$117,504. Supple is a Democrat.

3. Stanford— Professor Jennifer Eberhardt recently received portion of a \$625,000 MacArthur fellowship. The fellowship is “to encourage creative development into fresh new fields,” reports *San Jose Mercury News*. Eberhardt’s research conducted at Stanford University discovered that the perceptions of jurors, police officers and ordinary students make them more likely to mistrust and severely punish black people than those with lighter skin color. Eberhardt currently studies footage from Oakland police officers’ “body camera” videos for continued research.

4. San Antonio, Texas—Federal immigration officials are planning to open a 2,400-bed detention center to hold illegal immigrant families. If plans go through, the facility will be located 70 miles outside of San Antonio. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to hire Corrections Corporation of America to operate the facility, reports *AllGov.com*.

5. Dallas — County officials in Texas presented a measure to city officials that would have



eliminate face-to-face meetings between inmates and their visitors. The measure would have also charged their visitors for the video access, reports the *Dallas Observer*. In addition, the contract would have given management of the jail telephone to the company. The county’s commissioners voted down the measure 4-1. The commission reopened the bidding process to all original bidders. Any new bids are required to eliminate commissions for any paid video visits and to continue to allow in-person face-to-face visits.

6. Oklahoma City — Richard Glossip, 51, will be the second person executed under new procedures for lethal injections and in a newly renovated chamber at Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Glossip, whose execution has been set for later this year, is concerned that the facility is so new that prison officials

are not yet prepared to use it, *CNHI News Service* reports. In a July letter to a reporter, he wrote, “They have moved the execution table ... so that they could put a window in the door where the person administering the drugs, so that if an inmate starts flopping they can give them a little more muscle (relaxant) to stop it.”

7. Portland, Maine— A program that helps keep drug addicts out of jail will remain open, after Gov. Paul LePage intervened to solve a dispute between the Department of Corrections and court officials, *The Associated Press* reports. The disagreement centered on how to enforce violations in Cumberland County Drug Court, which led to a freeze on new cases.

8. New York — A 21-member panel pushed for the decriminalization of drugs such as marijuana, the end of incar-

ceration for drug use and possession, and heightened focus on protecting public health in a report published this fall, *ABC News* reports.

9. New York — The nation’s second-largest jail system, Rikers Island, will stop sending teenage inmates to solitary confinement by the end of the year, reports *The Associated Press*.

10. Frankfort, Ky. — Felons lobbying for the right to vote are turning to the Kentucky General Assembly for support. The assembly, which convenes in January, will vote on constitutional amendments that would automatically restore the voting rights for felons not convicted of sex offenses, homicide, treason, or bribery. The amendments require the support of 60 percent of legislators and ratification by voters.

11. Nashville, Tenn.— Tennessee must turn over the names

of pharmacists and others involved in the execution procedures of death row inmates, following a state appeals court ruling, reports *The Associated Press*. Death Row inmates are suing over the state’s lethal injection and electrocution procedures, claiming they are unconstitutional. Attorneys think that having the names will help them check the qualifications of the executioners.

12. Philadelphia — In order to prevent another in a series of recently botched executions nationwide, the American Civil Liberties Union and four Pennsylvania newspapers have filed a lawsuit asking a federal judge to find out where corrections officials are purchasing execution drugs. The lawsuit aims to shed light on the process by which these drugs are obtained, reports *Nation Now*.

13. Montpelier, Vt. — The Vermont Corrections Department says it has received a \$1 million federal grant to help reduce recidivism. Vermont is one of five states to receive the grant under The Second Chance Act, which is designed to help offenders re-enter society after leaving prison.

14. Florida — Thirty-two guards with the Florida Department of Corrections were fired for criminal wrongdoing or misconduct in connection with the deaths of inmates, reports the *Miami Herald*. The deaths, some of which happened due to what the DOC is calling “inappropriate use of force” by the guards, occurred at four state prisons over a 14-year period. The U.S. Department of Justice is now investigating one of the deaths.

15. Jackson, Miss. — The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit alleging that one Mississippi county illegally held inmates in jail for as long as a year without appointing counsel or presenting cases to a grand jury, *The Associated Press* reports.

What Are You Thankful For?

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The last 61 days of the year begin in the 11th month of our calendar year. According to the World Almanac, All Saints Day is on Saturday, Nov. 1. On Sunday, Nov. 2, it is All Souls Day and Daylight Saving Time ends. Veterans Day is on Tuesday, Nov. 11, Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 30.

November is also National AIDS Awareness Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, National Adoption Month, American Diabetes Month and National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month. Finally, there are two astrological signs in November: Scorpio, the scorpion, (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) and

Sagittarius, the archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21).

Looking ahead to Thanksgiving, people do have much to be thankful for, aside from the personal, legal and social difficulties of life. Sometimes hardships can cloud our memory of the many blessings we enjoy. The United States may not have a perfect judicial system, but history has shown that it has often rendered justice, from issues of equality and discrimination to upholding our constitutional rights. The average American diet may not be ideal, but this country enjoys an abundance of food compared to many other countries.

Sometimes when people go through difficulties they forget how fortunate and blessed we are to live in the United States.

Asked On The Line conducted

informal interviews with men in blue and asked, “What is the one thing, tangible or not, that you are most grateful for having? Who is the one person or group of people you are most thankful for knowing or meeting?”

Chris Scull said, “I am thankful for having my Bible and I am very grateful for having my family, especially my mom.”

Aaron Brock is grateful for being alive and is thankful for having his wife in his life.

Eduardo Delapena, 55, is grateful for having good health. “I can still play ball with the youngsters, even at my age.” He is also thankful for having his son, daughter, sister and brother in his life.

Paul Oliver said that he is grateful for having his health and is thankful for his wife.

Borey “P.J.” Ai said, “I am grateful for my computer. Very grateful for being able to use my computer.” He was also thankful for having his family and

friends. (Editor’s Note: Inmate Ai is employed by the Prison Industry Authority and his duties require computer use for clerical reasons. Computers authorized for inmate access have no Internet access.)

“I am very grateful for having my guitar. But my family, I am definitely grateful for having my family”

Martin Gomez-Galvan said, “Yo estoy agradecido pore estar bien de salud.” [I am grateful for being in good health.] “También estoy agradecido por tener a mi mama y a mis hijos,” said Gomez-Galvan. [I am also thankful for having my mom and my children.]

“I am not very materialistic when it comes to things,” said

Richard Morris, while thinking about his answer. “I am very grateful for having my guitar. But my family, I am definitely grateful for having my family.”

Adriel Ortiz-Ramirez said that he is grateful for his breath. “I am thankful that I can breathe,” said Ortiz-Ramirez. “I am also thankful for my older sister and my niece and nephew.”

Jesus Flores, 44, said that he is thankful for his health. “Yo fume y tome mucho cuando era joven. Ya no fumo ni tomo, y me siento sano,” said Flores. I smoked and drank a lot when I was young. I don’t smoke or drink anymore and I feel healthy.”

Bobby Evans said that he is thankful for having peace of mind. As far as people he is thankful for, he said, “Immediately I would say family, but I think I would be doing an injustice to myself if I didn’t mention the volunteers that come into San Quentin. I am thankful for meeting them.”

Stephen Pascascio said, “I am thankful for having my health and strength and I am grateful for having my son.”

Arts & Entertainment

Sudoku Corner

		9	8					6
			4	9			3	
	6				5			7
				4		2		1
3	4	2				6	7	5
1		5		7				
5			7				6	
	3			5	1			
8					4	1		

		3	1	9		5	8	2	
5									3
			6				1		
3	9			8		4		1	5
7	6		1		2			9	4
			7				9		
9									8
	1	5	3		9	2	4		

Snippets

Great Wall of China was built by many different dynasties. In fact, it took more than 2,000 years to create the Great Wall of China.

In India yoga has been in practice for more than 5,000 years.

Victory speech for the Giants could be almost impossible if you were speaking the language of the Zulus of South Africa. Their language includes fifteen different clicking sounds just for the consonants along.

Edison, Thomas has a record of 1,093 United States patents on inventions, including the famous phonograph.

POETRY CORNER

Self-realization is not a matter of withdrawal from a corrupt world or narcissistic contemplation of oneself. An individual becomes a person by enjoying the world and contributing to it.

–By Francine Klagsbrun

Contributions by:



Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Graduate School of Journalism



BEHIND THE SCENES
The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

7	3	8	6	5	2	1	4	9
5	1	6	3	4	9	2	7	8
9	4	2	7	8	1	6	5	3
8	5	3	1	2	4	7	9	6
2	6	1	9	7	3	5	8	4
4	9	7	8	6	5	3	2	1
1	2	9	5	3	8	4	6	7
6	8	4	2	1	7	9	3	5
3	7	5	4	9	6	8	1	2

1	8	6	4	5	2	9	7	3
7	2	5	9	6	3	1	8	4
3	9	4	8	1	7	5	6	2
2	4	9	3	7	8	6	1	5
8	6	3	1	2	5	4	9	7
5	7	1	6	9	4	2	3	8
4	1	7	2	3	6	8	5	9
6	3	2	5	8	9	7	4	1
9	5	8	7	4	1	3	2	6

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Education Dept. / SQ News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

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San Quentin Kings Defeat Rival Bittermen, 74-60

SPORTS

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Fast breaks and a talented bench lifted the San Quentin Kings over the visiting Bittermen basketball team, 74-60.

“Even though we lost, we love playing these guys,” said Bittermen center Todd Simms. “This has been a friendly rivalry for years and we will be back.”

The high-flying Kings opened up with a beautiful fast break. Kings 6-foot-2 point guard Oris “Pep” Williams ran the court with two forwards on his wings. Williams drove though the middle of the defense and faked a shot, which drew Simms off

his feet. Then Williams threw a no-look pass over his shoulder to P. “Strange” Walker for the layup.

“I was Magic,” said Williams.

“That was a nice dish,” said one of the spectators among the crowd excited about the play.

Another outstanding moment happened in the third quarter. Walker rebounded a missed Bittermen three-point attempt and threw a long outlet pass to Brian Asey, who made the extra pass to Tare “Cancun” Beltran, who alley-oop passed it to small forward Antonio Manning for the layup.

“Run and gun; it was show time,” commented one of the Kings’ players.

The spectacular plays didn’t slow the Bittermen down. They used team chemistry to keep

the game close, knocking down open threes. They also showed a strong presence inside with center Simms getting the offensive rebounds and put-backs for several baskets. Simms finished with 11 points.

Following a timeout, the Kings returned to the game playing a tight two-three zone defense. It kept the Bittermen off the boards and challenged the three-point shooting.

“That defense helped us manage the game better,” said Thad Fleeton.

The true game changers came from the Kings’ bench. The sharp shooting of Aubra-Lamont “Coocoo” McNeely and Charles “Pookie” Sylvester from behind the arc put the game out of reach for the Bittermen.

McNeely hit 3-5 for nine points. Sylvester went 3-7 for 10 points, making most of his



P. “Strange” Walker elevates with the fade-away jump shot over Todd Simms

shots in the second quarter. The Kings’ bench contributed 38 points, outdoing the starters by six points.

The starters were the work-horses, grinding it out against a strong, patient, organized team. Walker had 23 rebounds and eight points, Fleeton added 12 points and Demon Lewis chipped in 11.

At the end of the game, all the players from both teams formed a circle with their hands in the center raised high and cheered, “Celebrate community!”

San Quentin Hardtimers End Season With Victory Over North Bay Saints, 20-5

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team ended its season on a high note with a 20-5 victory over the visiting North Bay Saints.

“We did well. We won more than we lost,” said the Hardtimers coach.

“Our record is 9-8 and one tie,” said Nghiep Ke Lam, the Hardtimers’ shortstop and assistant coach.

The North Bay Saints team includes members of Santa Rosa area churches. The Sept. 28 game was their first time playing on San Quentin’s Lower Yard. Skip Bergeron and Mike Schramm of Cell to Cell Ministry brought the team in.

The game was closer than the score reflects and had many highlights.

In the first inning, Chris Bogart hit an in-the-park homer that delighted Dean Cimino and Ben Gardezy to score for the Saints.

“With these guys, it really is about the team. They are committed to each other. It’s never one person responsible for a win”

The Hardtimers responded with a seven-run bottom of the first inning.

The Hardtimers added to their lead almost every inning, while the Saints’ at-

tempts to come back were stopped cold by the Hardtimers’ defense.

Top of the fourth, Bogart smashed the ball down the third base line. Hardtimer Mark Jordan dove to grab the grounder and made the throw to first while lying in the dirt on his belly for the out.

Hardtimers John Windham, Ke Lam, Jordan and Blake caught everything that came their way.

The Saints loaded the bases in the third, fourth, eighth and ninth innings but only got two runs out of that, leaving 10 men stranded on base.

“We just happen to be hitting the balls where they are, and they’re hitting to where we are not,” said Steve Cabezud of the Saints.

Gardezy took one for the Saints. He was accidentally hit in the nose tagging out



Mark Jordan takes a big swing to contribute to the victory

Alias Jones at third in the bottom of the fifth. His nose started bleeding and he was asked if he wanted to continue.

“I didn’t go through all that clearance and security checks to sit on the bench,” Gardezy responded.

The Hardtimers overwhelmed the Saints from the batters box. Rick Post led the Hardtimers, batting 1.000 with two doubles, three singles and six RBIs. He was followed by teammate Carlyle “Otter” Blake, who also batted 1.000 with one double, three singles and two RBIs.

“With these guys, it really is about the team. They are committed to each other. It’s never one person responsible for a win,” said Coach Dan.

“This is many guys’ program, their therapy,” said John “Yayah” Parratt, the Hardtimers third base coach.

Everyone is looking forward to resting and coming back next year.

“The off season gives everybody a chance to heal up,” Parratt said.

“We love this game just as much as they do. We hope to come back once a month,” said Saints coach and first baseman Jim Bennett.

32 Runners Compete in a 3 Hour Run

By Frank Ruona
Contributing Writer

Sergio Carrillo took first among the 32 runners who participated in the 1000 Mile Club three-hour run by completing 21 miles.

Larry Ford, 58, completed 20 7/8 miles, Glen Mason, 51, completed 20 17/32 miles and Lorenzo Hopson, 60, with 20 miles, came in closely behind Carrillo, who is 41.

The race began with Hopson, Carrillo, Chris Schuhmacher and Chris Scull leading the pack for the first hour of the run with an eight-miles-per-minute pace. By the 15-mile mark, Hopson

slowed to an eight-minute and 55 seconds per mile pace; Scull fell back 11 minutes, and Schuhmacher went into walk-run mode.

By the 19-mile mark, Carrillo passed Hopson for the lead. Carrillo slowed to a 10-minute pace for the last two miles, barely beating Ford’s eight minute and 37 second per mile pace. Carrillo also won last year’s three-hour run by completing 20 3/8 miles.

The 25 other club members who completed the grueling run in preparation for the annual 26.1-mile marathon on Nov. 14 are:

See chart (right) for results.

RESULTS:		
Name	Age	Distance
Steve Reitz	38	19 7/8
Michael Keeyes	67	18 3/4
Louis Hunter	54	18 5/8
Miguel Quezada	33	18 1/2
Schuhmacher	41	18 1/4
Jesus Sanchez	36	18 1/4
Pedro Benitez	53	18 1/4
Lee Goins	57	18 1/4
Tone Evans	50	18 1/4
Bill Sullivan	60	18
Clifton Williams	53	17 3/4
Jose Sandoval	31	17 1/8
Juan Espinosa	43	17
Jerry Gearin	48	16 1/2
Darren Settlemeyer	48	16 1/2
Abel Armengol	33	16 1/4
Vincente Gomez	37	15 3/4
Nicola Bucci	41	15
Marlon Beason	35	10
James Robbins	44	10

Warriors School Pacific Union Students, 100-92

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

A bunch of young college kids looked a bit apprehensive when they braved a visit inside San Quentin for a basketball game. But they found an easy rapport with the S.Q. Warriors.

Many of the youngsters looked nervous as they took the outdoor blue-green court in the prison's Lower Yard.

"People said it was going to be dangerous, but it's cool here," Pacific Union College's Jordan Greenwell at halftime said, "I'm comfortable playing—it doesn't matter against who."

He dunked in the game three times, including one on Anthony Ammons. Greenwell went up with the ball in his left hand, but Ammons skied up and was blocking it when Greenwell re-established control with his right hand and finished the slam.

"It was a shock. I thought he was going to go with one hand, but I loved it," Ammons said.

Greenwell led Pacific with 16 points, 10 rebounds, two assists, four steals and two blocks.

The Pacific team visited on Oct. 19 to experience the prison atmosphere. They learned about more than zone defense in the 100-92 loss to the Warriors.

"I brought my guys in as a learning experience," said Pacific head coach Greg Rahn. "I

want to teach them about life choices and toughen them up."

Rahn played semi-pro in the ABA for the Orange County Nobel Saints.

The visitors also included assistant coaches Jason Silsdorf and Anthony Gonzalez, and 17 players. Both Silsdorf and Rahn played in the game, but Silsdorf took an accidental elbow to the forehead and had to sit out the second half.

Silsdorf played pro in the Philippines and for Texas Southern

while in college.

In the game, the Warriors took a 16-point lead at halftime.

Before the second half, everyone met at center court for inspirational messages.

Ammons started talking about the resilience of his mother. She beat drug addiction right after his arrest and has written him every week since.

Next Harry "ATL" Smith told the youngsters, "I was in ya'll shoes. I was playing for San Jose State but one bad move ended me

up here. You really don't know what you have until you come up in here. Do the right thing."

"We are all sinners. We all make mistakes," Gonzalez added. "Do your best and then some." His son, Gonzalez Jr., played in the game.

For visitor Jarron Crump, the day was a reminder that he made the right choice.

"My dad played in the NBA until he tore his knee. He didn't have a plan B and ended up in prison. I was following his path, until I realized I didn't want to be where he was," Crump said to inmates and teammates gathered around. "There is more to life than basketball—have a backup plan."

In the second half, the Warriors continued going to the rack

and getting lots of calls, while Pacific went through its roster trying to find an answer.

The Warriors big three—Smith, Allan McIntosh and Ammons—were almost unstoppable. Smith led all scorers with 29 points, 12 rebounds, three steals, two blocks and an assist. Ammons had 23 points and a whopping 23 rebounds plus three blocks. McIntosh added 23 more points and eight boards, with three steals.

"The Warriors made us play more physical and not worry about calls," said Andrew "Drew" Rice of Pacific. He ended up with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Pacific's Robert Hicks came off the bench late in the fourth and turned up the pressure defense, causing several turnovers. Pacific cut a 20-point deficit to eight before time ran out.

"They didn't turn the pressure up 'til late in the game. Had they pressed earlier, it might have been rougher for us," said Daniel Wright, the Warriors' head coach.

Other highlights included:

Alias Jones threw Ammons a lob for a dunk at the end of the fourth. Shortly after, Maurice Hanks threw Smith an alley oop that he slammed down with authority.

After the game, Hicks led the crowd in prayer. Then the guys from both teams held an impromptu slam-dunk exhibition.

"They made a better choice than I did. They are the future—I want them to continue to be better than me. I'm living out my dream through them," Ammons said.



Photo courtesy of Ben Drea

After a competitive game, students from Pacific Union College pose for a picture outside the prison

The Franchise Sweeps Its Way to a Title

The Franchise won the 2014 San Quentin Intramural Basketball League Championship with a sweep of all competitors, closing with an 81-79 win over Go Get It.

"All honor, praise and glory to Jesus Christ," said Harry "ATL" Smith about his Franchise-leading 23 points and 18 rebounds in the Sept. 21 championship game.

"We showed our seriousness and dedication by being the only team that practiced every Monday night and being the only team that created an assistant coach position. We earned the right to be here," said Franchise head coach Rafael "Nephew" Bankston after the winning the third straight game of the best-of-five series.

"I brought calmness, rationality, understanding and straight business to the team," said Franchise assistant coach Brad Shells.

The Franchise consisted of Kenneth Dozier, Anthony Ammons, Demond Lewis, Montrell "MD" Vines, Donte "Sandman" Smith, Marcus "B-Nut" Cosby, Joshua "JB" Burton, Harry "ATL" Smith, Ernest "Ern" Holloway and Derek Loud (who paroled before the finals.) They lived up to their motto: "It's all business."

The Franchise stayed in foul trouble most of the games, with Vines and D. Smith fouling out of finals game three.

"We won't give them nothing. I use all my fouls. It's just business," said Dozier.

Lewis motivated himself on court by talking trash.

"Ron Artest made a lot of crazy statements, but at the end of the day he won championships," said Lewis. "Since I got off the bus, I've won two championships." Lewis was also a member of the CBL half-court basketball championship team Fully Loaded.

"We are a brotherhood. We are a family. We took care of family business," said D. Smith after the game, while shaking up a water bottle and throwing H₂O into the air.

Ammons, named MVP by his coach, had his personal best performance since high school with a 40-point, 17-rebound opening in game one of the finals on Sept. 7.

"That's the most points I've

scored in an official prison basketball game. I scored 53 in 1999 playing small forward for Centennial High School," said Ammons. "My focus that day was not to argue, but to play team ball and have fun. When you have fun, everything comes to you."

Vines also shined in that Sept. 7 game by hitting five three-pointers.

Motivated by his teammates to step up, "ATL" Smith led the way in the last two finals games. He had 25 points, 26 rebounds, five assists, five steals and eight blocks in finals game two. Ammons added another 20 points and 22 rebounds with four assists and two steals.

"I love my teammates, bro. If it wasn't for them supporting me thru all the hate on and off the

court, my mental wouldn't have been right," said "ATL" Smith.

"The Franchise is way too talented," said Shells. "When 'ATL' plays aggressive, his presence changes the whole game. Ant (Ammons) is the clean-up man and Montrell (Vines) plays mad defensive. It's like an all-star team playing regular ones."

Burton and Vines added nine points each and Cosby added 10 to beat Go Get It in the Sept. 14 80-62 win.

Burton credits his improvement to "coming out playing with my team and developing that family business love."

Vines also credits his teammates' support for his performance.

Game three of the finals was the closest of The Franchise's playoff run. Go Get It had its back against the wall and came out swinging. The lead switched back and forth with buzzer-beating shots ending the first and second quarters.

Greg Eskridge hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to cut The Franchise's lead to 24-21.

During the second quarter, Richard Zorns hit two three-pointers to give Go Get It a 39-35 lead.

At the close of the second, it was Sandman Smith who rebounded a missed shot and laid it up to cut Go Get It's lead, 43-40, at the buzzer.

In the second half, "ATL" Smith tried to dunk on Go Get It, but Allan McIntosh blocked it at the rim, drawing a foul.

"It was a block. There was a

foul, but it was ticky-tacky," said "ATL" Smith. "I have a whole new-found respect for (McIntosh). He is one of the toughest players I've played against while incarcerated."

McIntosh was the Go Get It scoring leader all season except the last game. There he finished with 22 points and 21 rebounds while Eskridge led with 28 points and 28 rebounds.

With the score 79-79 and two seconds left, "ATL" Smith was fouled going to the paint. He made both free throws, giving The Franchise the lead.

From four feet behind the arc, Go Get It threw up a Hail Mary that hit the backboard as the clock expired.

"Awesome," said Franchise fan Ben Ford.

"I told them to go handle business!" yelled fan and self-declared 12th man Ken Taylor.

In the final game, Dozier was the second-leading scorer for Franchise with 14 points. Ammons contributed 13 with 16 rebounds and Vines added 12 points.

"Congratulation on winning, although the Transformers weren't healthy," said Oris "Pep" Williams, guard from last year's Transformers championship team. He played this year with an injured elbow, severely hampering his sharp-shooting skills.

"Despite a few bumps and bruises, the season went well," said Ishmael Freelon, Intramural League commissioner.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**



Photo by Sam Hearnese

Coach of the franchise Rafael "Nephew" Bankston holding up their team jersey

Three Prison Bands Perform Their Unique Musical Talents on the Lower Yard

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Three inmate bands filled the air with their unique music on a Saturday morning in San Quentin's Lower Yard.

In the midst of tennis matches, basketball games and inmates observing the weekend, hundreds throughout the yard on Sept. 13 were listening to the hip-hop and rock sounds of *Contagious*, *Morris & Mason* and *Human Condition*.

"This was the first time that I actually stopped to watch a yard show," said Quinton Walker, who has been at San Quentin for eight years. "I think the group *Contagious* is fantastic. David Jassy, the lead singer, is a true professional."

Adding their own touch to the classic song "Oh Girl" by the Chi-Lites, *Contagious* brought a new level to live entertainment.

"The remix sounds good. They made it like an up-to-date version. It's a 10," said Charles "Pookie" Sylvester.

Raphael Casale, an office technician in the warden's office, is a San Quentin self-help sponsor. Casale sponsors the prison's music bands as well as an at-risk youth program called SQUIRES.

"We live in a tense envi-



Photo by Raphael Casale

Contagious performing their songs 'All of a Sudden' and 'Freedom' during the Yard Show

ronment," said Wilber "Rico" Rogers leader of *New Syndicate of Funk*, an inmate band that has previously played on the yard. "Our sponsor, Raphael, has brought continuity to the whole program. She restructured the program so that we could bring live

entertainment to the population."

Casale said that the administration supports positive programs such as Arts-in-Corrections.

"Music is powerful inside the walls. It's relaxing, brings community and it also helps

the artists to get along," Casale said. "How can you not support that?"

"Music soothes the savage beast," Rogers said. "This is an opportunity for us to release it through music."

While Richard "Richie" Morris of *Morris & Mason*

was tuning his guitar, he talked about what music meant to him.

"It's a connection that crosses all boundaries and barriers," Morris said. Pointing to his skin, he said, "This doesn't matter. I get to reach people where they're at. We've all been told by society that we don't have anything to offer. It's not true; we all have gifts. If we have gifts, we have to give them away. That's what my music is — a gift, and that's demonstrated to me by the way people react to my music."

In the song "Freedom" by *Contagious*, the hook resonated with the listeners as Jassy rapped, "I had a dream I could buy my way to freedom." Another inmate commented that the other lyrics of the song were meaningful, specifically: "Music is really our rehabilitation; just feel good for a little bit. Spread love."

When *Contagious* finished its final act, the men called out for an inmate favorite, "All of a Sudden." Jassy said they'd perform the song with one condition: the audience sing along. The rousing interaction between performers and audience heightened the yard's happy atmosphere.

Human Condition closed the show with a performance of original rock music.

Brothers in Pen Project Gives Voice Through Writings at the Yerba Buena Arts Center

By Leslie Lakes
Contributing Writer

Every Wednesday San Quentin inmates assemble to write and share prose and poetry, forming a group known as the Brothers In Pen.

These creative writers are part of an ongoing project that publishes anthologies of prisoners' writing. This September at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Zoe Mullery, who facilitates Brothers In Pen, shared the group's work for a crowd of 60 listeners. Carol Newborg of the William James Association hosted the event.

Former San Quentin inmates Henry Montgomery, Charles Talib Brooks, Carl Irons and Jerry Elster each read their own work.

The four readers sat with one another on a couch situated on a makeshift stage facing the audience.

Elster started the readings with "Hip Hop Ain't Easy in the Ghetto." Elster is currently serving as Healing Justice Program Coordinator with American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco.

Henry Montgomery followed with his "If Only I..." an interactive theatrical piece wherein he engaged three people from the audience to

participate in his enacted soliloquy. "If Only I..." comprised an imagined conversation that Montgomery would have if he were able to go back in time and have a chance to talk to his younger self before he committed the crime of taking someone's life, which resulted in a 16-years-to-life sentence. Montgomery joined Mullery's first writing class in 2007.

Charles Talib Brooks read "Summer of Love." By his own testimony, writing in prison became Brooks' educational system. It also helped him to articulate the pain he experienced because he was an introvert. Like many other men in the program, Brooks said, writing became a way for him to learn, grow, share and contribute to others through his short stories. Brooks later told the audience that he had wanted to read Noble Butler's "I Am" piece but wasn't able to do so due to time constraints.

Finally, Carl Irons read a story by Kris Himmelberger titled "22.8 Miles: A Memoir."

The readings were followed by a Q&A period. The formerly incarcerated men answered questions about transformation with author-



Photo courtesy of Leslie Lakes

Jerry Elster, Zoe Mullery and Charles Talib Brooks read writings on behalf of prisoners inside San Quentin

A number of people asked for advice about their lives. A high school senior told how utterly anxious he was to leave the familiar and comforting life he knew as a teenager. The student knelt down on one knee near the foot of the stage and confessed he felt like he was running out of time. He asked the readers, "What advice do you have for me about

moving on?"

Jerry Elster said that the question was "profound." "There is so much more to the world than what you have already experienced," Elster told the young man.

Montgomery added, "I'm going to answer your question from a relationship perspective. I got married in April, and I'm already getting

a divorce. I cried for 37 days straight. I pray and meditate to face the fear of not wanting to be alone. Your very question is a form of moving on; today you have moved on."

Brooks told the student, "Just remember that the word 'fear' can be an acronym for False Evidence Appearing Real or Face Everything And Recover."

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2014 NO.12

December 2014

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,933

GRIP Graduates 72 Peacemakers



Photo by Sam Hearn

Robert Frye, Richard Palmer and Robin Gullien presented Ms. Jeni Lyons with a robe donated by Muhammad Ali robe

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of incarcerated men showed that they could guide their rage into power and transform themselves into peacemakers before a Nov. 21 audience that included local mayors, prison administrators, public safety officials and fellow convicted criminals.

The violence prevention program, Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), held its fourth graduation of 72 San Quentin State Prison inmates, along with 12 inmates who had completed a domestic violence counselor curriculum.

"GRIP taught me to be accountable for my crime, to stop looking at external factors," said Vaughn Miles, 41, who graduated from GRIP last year. "It's an obligation for taking a life, causing a mother hurt that will never be quenched. My

senseless act can't be undone, but I refused to sit around and make it anymore senseless."

Conceived by Jacques Verduin, GRIP is a comprehensive offender accountability pro-

See **GRIP** on Page 12

New Warden At San Quentin

By CDCR Press Office



San Quentin's new acting warden, Ronald Davis, began his career with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in 1994 as a correctional officer at California State Prison, California Training Facility, Soledad.

Computer Coding Class Comes to San Quentin

The Last Mile's program prepares inmates for good outside jobs

Inmates enrolled in a computer coding class showcased their work at a press conference on Nov. 12.

The class, called Code.7370, allows inmates to learn HTML, CSS and JavaScript virtually from coding teachers who work at Hack Reactor, a coding academy in San Francisco.

Inmates receive instruction through video conference calls with teachers on an administrative network, and take the class in an offline computer lab, according to a California Prison Industry Authority press release by Michele Kane.

"This is exciting for San Quentin," said then Acting Warden Kelly Mitchell. "It's something that the department fully



Photo by Sam Hearn

Larry Histon concentrating on computer codes

supports

Code.7370 is a collaboration between Hack Reactor, CALPIA General Manager Charles Pattillo and Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti — Silicon Valley venture capitalists who co-founded inmate entrepreneurship training program The Last Mile (TLM).

The training program TLM, established in 2010, invites successful technology and business professionals to work with inmates and "help bridge the gap

See **Computer** on Page 4

See **San Quentin** on Page 16

Centerforce Holds Graduation Ceremony

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Forty inmates received certificates of completion in October after graduating from a peer health program taught by Centerforce.

The graduation ceremonies were spread over two days. Prior to the graduations, two 11-week training sessions were held. During the sessions, the men learned about the pervading transmission and prevention of STDs and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, B and C, HIV/AIDS, communication and other subjects.

"It's been eye opening and inspirational. It's a privilege to be here," said Daniel Sterling, one of the inmate graduates.

Centerforce transitional case manager Shannon Gordhamer told the men, "In the history of the world there has never been another you, and there never will be." She then quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Another inmate said it was his second time taking the class and that he learns something new each time.

"It's a very informative class," said Khalil Thrower. "It has given me the skills to communicate more effectively about diseases."

During the closing ceremony, each class participant was urged to continue with post-training knowledge and to recognize the bond formed

See **Centerforce** on Page 14

'Curly Joe' Inspires Others to Change

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation knows him as inmate James L. Burrell, #C34144. However, around San Quentin's Vocational Machine Shop (VMS) program, he was affectionately known as "Curly Joe," a curmudgeonly, gruff-acting inmate with a hidden heart of gold.

Curly Joe paroled last February after being incarcerated for nearly 33 years, all of which were served right here at San Quentin.

Curly Joe managed the Tool Room within the VMS

program and ran it with a no-nonsense efficiency. He had responsibility and accountability for every piece of equipment that either left or entered the tool crib. When a student needed a particular tool, he would quickly identify it and provide the student with what was required to get the job done. You could often hear his familiar bark around the shop, yelling for someone to either pick up or turn in their tools.

The one person who knows him best is his friend and fellow machine shop student and lead man, Duane Butler. "I

See **Curly Joe** on Page 7



File Photo

'Curly Joe' enjoying a meal in the free world

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In collaboration with students from the



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- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Nurse Raney Dixon’s Retirement

‘Thank you Ms. Dixon for your patience and kindness’

Nurse Raney Dixon retired at the end of December after more than 10 years at San Quentin.

Members of the medical staff and co-workers of Dixon had this to say about the retiree:

Beverly Allison: Ms. Dixon is a very caring person, and she has really cared about the well-being of the inmates. I have known her from the first day that she started. I know for sure she is one that you don’t mess with. When it comes to her job duties, she takes that very seriously. So, please know what you are talking about when you tell her something.

RN Manny Aldip: The time that I’ve known and worked with Raney – almost nine years – she has shared with me some of her experiences from more than 30 years as an RN, especially her experiences here at San Quentin. This I truly appreciate as it has improved my overall understanding of the patient population that we are caring for. Throughout the past several years, I’ve come to know a wonderful, smart, courageous and fair woman who sticks to her guns; goes by the book when it comes to her nursing practice; but, always opens her heart and her mind to people who need a shoulder or someone to listen. She will be missed, not only by the staff, who have had the opportunity to interact with her, but also by the people and patients she has helped and encouraged. Raney, enjoy your retirement and the good things that come with it.

Marielle Almares: It has been a pleasure getting to know Raney not only as a co-worker but as a friend. Along with her passion and dedication to fairness and proper care of patients, she has a good heart and always puts others first. Thank you for all your advice, support and encouragement. You will truly be missed!

Rosemary Smith: Ms. Dixon is such a kindhearted person. Working in the appeals department with her was such a joy. Whenever I had a question or needed assistance, she was always willing to help. I am going to miss her, and her beautiful smile. Wishing you much luck in the next chapter of your life. May God continue to bless you.

Angel Llano: Raney is a patient co-worker and focused RN. She does her best to help her patients and co-workers. Congratulations and good luck!

RN Sue Patrick: Always available and supportive of her fellow nurses. Helping many of us through her wise experience and being an SEIU steward. She has been a very strong presence



Photo by Sam Hearn

Nurse Dixon in the Lower Yard gymnasium during the Health Fair

in SEIU. She takes many hours of her own time to counsel and learn. I have great respect for Raney. Not to mention her daily beautiful smile and happy attitude. She is an awesome nurse, kind and considerate to all inmates. She is a wonderful cook also. I will miss her, but she has earned her retirement! I wish her all the best!

LVN Stephen Bale: Each end brings a new beginning, but you will be missed!

Lori Scharf: I have not known Raney very long, but I feel like I have known her forever. She is warm and caring – the perfect person to be the patient advocate. San Quentin won’t be the

this great relationship; after all, they are building more restaurants in Emeryville.

Correctional Officer Stubs: The best nurse I’ve had the pleasure of working with. Prisoners show their respect:

Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla CHSB Porter/Clerk: I will always remember Ms. Dixon as the person of reason. She always smiled and spoke with a kind sobering voice. She will be remembered for her wealth of wisdom.

Ms. Dixon is a good person who always walks around with a smile on her face and ready to talk about those Raiders. It is a true blessing to see a woman



Photo by Sam Hearn

Nurse Dixon posing for the camera

same without her.

RN Nina Podolsky: I’ve known you since the day I was searching for a friendly shoulder to cry on, warm heart to feel for me and cool head to help me with my problems. You have always been so patient, and always had time to listen to my problems, no matter big or small. All these years I’ve known you, you have been a great advocate for your co-workers and for patients. You are my model nurse, model friend and I know that I’m so lucky that you are present in my life. It is really a privilege to work with you, and I will sure miss our discussions, laughs, food and more. And, there is no goodbye from me because I hope that we will continue

who smiles and enjoys what she does. Thank you, Ms. Dixon, for your smile and your great work; also, for not judging me because of where I am but as who I’ve become.

Anthony Ammons, CHSB Porter: Ms. Dixon always stood strong in delivering bedside skills and coordinating with multiple agents securing safe transportations of inmate/patients. As a steward, she has taught me the value in being courageous. She resonates Maya Angelou’s words,

“One isn’t necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest.” For this, I will always be grateful to her. Her ability to express what was true and right — knowing insurmountable work would be attached — but because it was the “right thing to do” has persevered in many of us. Ms. Dixon is among the best nurses I have met in four states I have worked in over 35 years. These principles enable nurses to secure the receiver-ship’s goals with the care much needed by our inmate/patients. Thank you Ms. Dixon for your patience and kindness.

Three-Strikers Learn What Leads to Release

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

There is a possibility that many of the nearly 9,000 Three-Strikers currently incarcerated in California will be eligible for parole in 2018. Many are asking what specific requirements the board is looking for in order to approve their release.

Executive Officer of the Board of Parole Hearings Jennifer Shaffer said people hoping to parole need to know who they were, who they are today and the difference between the two.

Hope for Strikers, San Quentin's Three-Strike self-help



Photo by CDCR

Executive Officer of the
Board of Parole Hearings
Jennifer Shaffer

group, held a forum on Oct. 10 that included Shaffer and Chief Counsel for the Board of Parole Hearings Howard E. Moseley.

Hope for Strikers is a support group that has adapted the 12-step program from Alcoholics Anonymous. One of the group's objectives is to prepare inmates to meet the board successfully.

As the forum progressed, Shaffer made it clear that Three-Strikers coming before the board will be judged by the same standard as every lifer, i.e. whether they pose a current danger to public safety.

"I don't think anything is different about these hearings," Shaffer said. She explained that the board will be asking

Three-Strikers the same questions they ask other lifers, and the board will want to see the same kind of growth in both violent and non-violent offenders.

"People hoping to parole need to know who they were, who they are today, and the difference between the two"

"Anger issues and substance abuse issues you haven't addressed" are the things commissioners will look for, said Shaffer. Whether an offender is non-violent or violent, the same criminal thinking leads to crimes, and non-violent crimes can become violent crimes when situations unexpectedly spin out of control, she said.

Shaffer also answered ques-

tions about the recent court decisions capping California's prison inmate population. "Do not come to us asking for projections on who we're going to let out," She said. "That's not what we're about. We take it case by case and don't form policies with population reduction in mind."

Shaffer said that all activities in which the men participate would affect board hearings, ranging from self-help groups addressing past behavior to rules violations while incarcerated.

Shaffer has given talks to prosecutors, community groups, inmate council groups and victims' advocacy groups. She stated that her goal is to dispel conspiracy theories that the board has bias.

"To me, the biggest resource we have is our integrity," Shaffer said. "We don't have an interest in the outcome of our hearings other than that the hearings are fair, unbiased and that the decisions rendered can withstand judicial scrutiny."

'Horrific' Pepper Spray Use Prompts New Curb

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has sharply curbed the use of pepper spray on mentally ill California prisoners.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton signed off Aug. 1 on a state reform plan drawn up in compliance with a court order, reported Julie Small for The California Report on Aug. 19.

"Horrific" is the word used by Karlton to describe video evidence submitted to the court that shows pepper spray being used on a hallucinating inmate, said Small. The inmate, Jermaine Padilla, would not leave his cell in order to receive medication, she said.

"He has described this as making him feel like less than an animal," said Padilla's attorney, Lori Rifkin. Padilla believes the experience at Corcoran worsened his schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and has permanently damaged him, Rifkin added.

The plan by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is designed to detail changes in the use of force on mentally ill inmates, reported Small.

The move on behalf of CDCR comes in response to an April federal court order mandating that changes be made concerning when and how correctional officers can use pepper spray to force uncooperative inmates to leave their cells or follow or-



File Photo

U.S. District Judge
Lawrence Karlton

that changes are needed regarding psychiatric care.

Small quoted a national expert on correctional mental health, Terry Kupers, as saying, "The pepper spray, the cell extractions, the beatings, the violence among prisoners – all those constitute reenactments of trauma in people who were previously traumatized and make them more emotionally disabled."

The California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) also recognizes a problem with the current use of force, and considers the court-ordered changes long overdue, Small reported.

Karlton's April court order bans the use of pepper spray on mentally ill inmates in cells and psychiatric holding facilities with few exceptions, noted Small.

"The critical element is to appropriately train our members to recognize what they are dealing with," said Craig Brown, a lobbyist for CCPOA, speaking of the reform plan, according to Small.

Principal among the changes is that prison staff will be trained to collaborate and to use force only as an absolute last measure after all other options have failed, said Small.

The California Report reported that some negotiations are still under way, yet CDCR officials plan on full implementation of the reforms by the end of this year.

ders, reported Small.

Pepper spray possibly played a part in the deaths of three inmates, Small reported.

Lesser injuries also may have been caused by pepper spray, added Small. The exact number is unknown because CDCR does not consider the effects of pepper spray an injury, Small reported.

The California Report stated that there are 37,000 inmates in California with mild to severe mental illness, about one-quarter of the overall prison population.

Small reported that over the past two decades a number of lawsuits brought by inmates have revealed a "correctional system poorly equipped to deliver adequate care to the needs of these inmates."

Karlton determined last fall

Law Banning Forced Sterilization Signed

In 27 Of The 39 Cases, The Audit Showed a Physician Did Not Sign The Required Consent Form

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation banning forced and coerced sterilizations of women in California jails and prisons.

The bill bans tubal ligations except to save a patient's life or to treat a medical condition when no less drastic procedure is possible. The new law takes effect Jan. 1.

"It's clear that we need to do more to make sure that forced or coerced sterilizations never again occur in our jails

and prisons," said the author of SB1135, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara. "Pressuring a vulnerable population into making permanent reproductive choices without informed consent violates our most basic human rights."

Prison rules allowed women prisoners to have their tubes tied as part of regular obstetrical care, the Reuters news agency reported.

An audit released in June showed that there were errors

in obtaining informed consent from 39 women inmates out of 144 who had their tubes tied while incarcerated between 2005 and 2011, Reuters reported. In 27 of the 39 cases, the audit showed a physician did not sign the required consent form.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is under court orders to improve medical and mental health care delivery in its overcrowded prisons.

—By Thomas Gardner

Public Interest Attorney Wagner Cited for Advocacy

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The American Constitution Society (ACS) has recognized a public interest attorney for his "advocacy on behalf of marginalized people."

Peter J. Wagner, executive director and co-founder of Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), was awarded the ACS's David Carliner Public Interest Award at its National Convention earlier this year.

"I went to law school a decade ago when prison populations were going up, and up, and up seemed like the only future," said Wagner.

An ACS press release said it gives this annual award to a mid-career public interest lawyer whose work best exemplifies David Carliner's legacy of "fearless, uncompromising and creative advocacy..."

Wagner said the ACS award, named after Carliner, a champion of human rights, is "a huge honor because it recognizes criminal justice issues, and the victories we have all in this room won together over the last decade."

In a speech at the ACS convention, Wagner said medical doctors are guided by the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm. He said the U.S. criminal justice system is not designed using the same standard. Instead, it has "a set of policies that do more to exacerbate existing racial and economic disparities in our country than they do to respond to crime."

"I co-founded the Prison Policy Initiative to change that reality," said Wagner. "It is absolutely essential that our justice policies be fair, and it

is critical that our policies actually make our communities stronger and safer."

Under Wagner, PPI brought prison gerrymandering, a U.S. Census policy that counts prisoners where they are incarcerated instead of where they are from, to the forefront of national consciousness.

"I took on prison gerrymandering more than a decade ago," Wagner told the ACS audience. "I connected the dots and built a broad multi-sector movement that has permanently changed how our democracy works..."

Some of Wagner's work with PPI also includes updating policy-makers with accurate data on mass incarceration and recently convincing the Federal Communications Commission to impose regulations on the prison phone industry by placing a cap on the cost of calls when prisoners call home.

"I'm confident that, if all of the different parts of the legal profession work together, we can make a better, safer and more just world," Wagner said in his speech at the ACS convention.

PPI has three full-time staffers and one part-time staff member. On occasion, consultants and student volunteers work with the organization.

Wagner received his Juris Doctor from Western New England College School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he majored in social thought and political economy, with a minor in African-American studies.

Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group Celebrates Makahiki

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

“ALOOOOOHA!” Damon Cooke greeted the guests and set the tone at the second annual Makahiki ceremony, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group in San Quentin’s Arc building.

“Today is about paying homage to our ancestors and everyone who has helped us form our identity and grow as a unit,” said Cooke, an inmate organizer.

“Aloha is a greeting, salutation and farewell all in one word,” said Reginald Hola. “Broken down, aloha is sharing...spreading, sunshine...aloha is love.”

The spirit of aloha was felt throughout the ceremony from its inclusiveness in everything from the sharing of Hawaiian culture to story telling, dances and the menu.

“They are bringing Hawaiian culture, all feeling present and aloha spirit,” said guest Mo-

nique LeSarre. “I’m amazed by their spirit of generosity, strength, channeled manhood, power and connection through love and spirit related to culture. They have invited many nationalities to share in their culture.”

Makahiki is the season of Lono.

“Lono is the patron spirit of agriculture, fertility, peace and healing,” A. Panthong told the crowd.

Many of the men in blue, who performed the spiritual dances, weren’t Hawaiian, but that didn’t matter.

“You don’t have to be from Hawaii to be a part of it. If you believe in love and togetherness, you are part of it,” said Vinh Nguyen, who is Vietnamese. “I got involved to help with paperwork -- I can’t dance.”

“I embraced their culture, and they embraced me,” said Donald Ray Walker Jr., an African-American. “I learned the dances in the native Hawaiian group on Saturdays.”

“I personally embrace those who embrace my culture,” said Hawaiian elder D. Kualapai.

“Being a Pakistani and having so many Samoan and Hawaiian cell mates, they wanted me to come to their services,” Adnan Khan said. “I noticed everybody’s culture is universal. It is very relatable to Pakistan culture and Islam -- unity, oneness, doing righteous deeds and fostering brotherhood.”

“Our weaknesses are strengthened by diversity. Everybody learns from everybody,” added Hola. “Our main goal is giving self-ID through tradition and culture. Everybody is part of Pacific Island Asian culture, so we decided to give everybody a chance to promote unity.”

The dances, like the Kila Kila, Manu Samoa and Aoteroa Haka, were done with aggressive stances, bare feet stomping to a single drum beat, hostile looks, tongues sticking out, eyes bulging, beating of chest, strong arm movements and chants done in an intimidating fashion.

“It was symbolic of a battle; literally and figuratively. There was bloodshed, but there was a spiritual battle too,” said Cooke. “We mean you no harm; peace is in our hearts. In this culture, it’s love.”

Indeed, the Haka dances are fostering peace. The Hawaiian community has been seen performing the Haka at many events, including Roots, a Restorative Justice symposium, and a Patton University graduation.

“I am here because of the performance at last year’s graduation, I was so moved by it on a metaphysical and spiritual level, it was exciting,” said Joy Brooke Fairfield, Prison University



Photo by Michael Nelson

Guests enjoying the Makahiki celebration

Project instructor.

“We have a huge community that includes these guys, and they didn’t have a venue,” said Kara Urion, a Patton coordinator. “Almost every person who performed the Haka is in our program.”

Many stories were shared. Among them tales about “Uku,” the custom of reciprocity and how it spreads prosperity.

“I live in a prison cell, but that’s not my home. I have to reconnect to the heart to navigate my way home,” said Upu Ama.

Khan explained the concept of “Mana.”

“Mana is the energy you can’t see, but you feel it,” said Khan. “Senior spirits disturbed it everywhere. In humans, it’s our talents, our strength, our intelligence, our leadership and charisma. Mana is what made Jordan, Jordan. If you abuse Mana, you will lose it. Don’t lose your Mana — be righteous people”

“We were all newborns representing new hope, love and opportunities,” Ama said from the podium in between dances. “As I grew up, I got lost and became the enemy who attacked and destroyed the village. Today we are aiding rebirth — a process of reconciliation.”

Even the menu showed the thoughtfulness of the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group. They served 13 different entrees, which included several options for everybody—Halal, vegan

and Kosher.

“Our culture is family oriented. Once we get to know you, you are automatically family. We are into oneness; that’s indicative of our culture,” said Grace Taholo, the group’s sponsor.

Aunties (older ladies in the community) and Kasi Chakravartula, a Roots volunteer, made the leis the guys wore.

“We didn’t have enough money for leis,” said Jun “Auntie Jun” Hamamoto. “But a friend taught us how to make them for free when she found out who it was for. I put a call out to the aunties, and just like that, they were there. They came, and we made 25 leis.”

After everyone ate, the event ended with calls for Nick Lopez to dance. An impromptu half-circle was made on stage and the dancers performed the male Hula. Lopez was cast into the center where he delivered. Also, O. Hameti hilariously incorporated the Cabbage-Patch dance into the traditional moves.

“The Hula and story-telling were amazing,” said Chakravartula.

“I’m honored that they reached out to me and were inclusive,” said Earlonne Woods.

“These guys are a new group. I’m amazed by how much they’ve accomplished,” Hamamoto said.

—Aaron “Harun” Taylor contributed to this story.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Reginald Hola, Jeremiah Stephens and Elijah Fejeran pose outside the ARC building before performing the “Haka” ceremonial dance

Computer Coding Classes at San Quentin Begin

Continued from Page 1

between the penal system and the technology sector,” the CALPIA press release reports.

“It has taken a lot of work to prepare the classroom for the first 18 inmates,” Pattillo said. CALPIA doled out about a quarter million dollars to construct the San Quentin classroom, with an annual operating cost of about \$180,000, according to Pattillo.

According to Pattillo, the program saves the state money because it lowers the recidivism rate. Inmates who participated in the CALPIA’s Career Technical Training program have a 7.1 percent recidivism rate, while the total three-year recidivism rate for all felons released between fiscal years 2002-03 and 2008-09 is 61 percent, according to a 2013 CDCR report: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult_Research_Branch/Research_documents/Outcome_evaluation_Report_2013.pdf.

“It costs about \$60,000 a year to incarcerate the 18 men in this classroom,” Pattillo

said. “Do the math, that’s a cost of \$1,080,000.”

The challenge is to provide this type of training to prisons located in remote places and be able to teach the curriculum without Internet access, Pattillo said. He added that he is optimistic that the program could expand to other prisons, emphasizing the women’s prisons.

“When I found out about The Last Mile and the Code.7370 class, I wanted to get involved,” said Jon Gripshover, one of the program’s instructors who used to work with at-risk

youths. “The coding class gives the inmates tools that they could use to help them find jobs once they are released from prison.”

The curriculum is administered in two-day blocks called sprints, where inmates are paired up and given specific programming tasks and projects to complete together.

“The team concept in problem solving is really helpful,” said Jason Jones, a 31-year-old inmate who is one of the program’s students. “When we get problems, my partner might



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Erin O'Connor displaying his work



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Class Code 7370 learning the meaning of coding

see a solution to a problem that I may not see. So, I’m learning from him. Two heads are better than one.”

Jones has been in prison since 2006 and is scheduled to be released in 2017.

Following the press conference, Redlitz went on to facilitate the current session of TLM. At the session, about 14 new inmates — not participating in the coding program — are learning how to develop business ideas that have a so-

cially responsible component.

Inmates stood before the class to pitch their ideas, which range from ways to allow musicians to share and profit from their work to apps that would give users detailed information about food choices.

“Teaching inmates to do this type of work keeps jobs in America,” said Redlitz. “This program shifts the out-sourcing of jobs, bringing good jobs back to the U.S.”

—By Juan Haines

Original Production of Waterline Calls Forth a Standing Ovation

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

Art often imitates life, and when executed well, an audience is able to draw connections between the performance and reality through the power of the narrative. On Oct. 4, the original prison production of *Waterline* did just that.

Waterline is an interpre-

know it was going to turn into something bigger.

“With the creative vision of the directors, our stories became woven together over an eight-month period,” said Pangthong.

The directors guided the men in choreographing and turning their stories into a performance worth viewing.

The production was not

seats in the Protestant Chapel at San Quentin. More than 60 citizens and 100 prisoners crowded into the building to watch the production.

At the start of the show, the actors lay in fetal positions. “It quenches our thirst and aids in our birth,” a voice narrated to the sound of the rain. The image of water was present in most of the scenes as a figurative thread to help tie the stories together. In several respects, water served as a metaphor for life in all its forms, both stagnant and fast-paced.

Throughout the play, different life stories were woven into the production in a seamless fashion.

One cast member led each story, accompanied by the movements of the other actors.

Carlos Meza, who performs under the name “Losdini,” commanded the audience’s attention as he walked in a serpentine manner stepping on pieces of white paper placed at his feet by the other actors. At the end of his movement, he said: “I am not what I was. I am aware. I am.”

Meza explained that the white papers symbolize the endless court documents that often dictate the direction of prisoners’ lives behind bars.

Later on in the show, Pangthong narrated his life story as a Laotian refugee. His story mirrored that of Kroung Songkra, a Cambodian refugee who paroled in 2014 prior to the performance. Meza played Songkra in his life depiction.

Both Pangthong and Songkra’s stories told of generational trauma, the repercussions of tragic experiences passed from one generation to the next. Songkra’s mother was forced to watch the Khmer Rouge eat her own father’s heart, a scene that was depicted in the play. Pangthong told the story of his pregnant mother crossing a river in a bicycle inner-tube in hopes of providing her son with a better life on the other side.

Their life stories circled back to their own births, which were depicted through dance. Some audience members shed tears as they witnessed the reenactments of these two men’s births.

The show ended with the story of Rodney Capell imagining his release from prison after 25 years of incarceration. “I wonder if, after a quarter century, a quarter-pounder with cheese tastes the same,” Capell laments.

The statement provoked thought: What else has this man missed out on in 25 years of incarceration?

The Insight Prison Project, a restorative justice program and



Photo by San Hearn

Ginno Savacos serenading the crowd while being lifted away

tative performance utilizing modern dance and dramatic monologue. Based on the life stories of five prisoners, *Waterline* was performed by the Artistic Ensemble, a drama therapy group of 14 men at San Quentin. Prior to the play’s debut, these men collaborated to write, choreograph

without its challenges. “There were some creative differences that arose, but at the end of the day, we put our egos aside and made it work,” Pangthong admitted.

During rehearsals, the troupe of actors would break up into groups to go over lines after warm-ups, which includ-



Photo by San Hearn

Chris Marshall playing the arresting officer escorting Gary Martin, who was struck out to prison

and produce this piece of art. It brought the audience to a standing ovation at its finish.

The directors helped the men to tell their stories by first having them workshop their written stories. At the time of the writing workshop, Anouthinh Pangthong, an actor in *Waterline*, said he didn’t

ed tongue-twisters, movement exercises, improvising and a lot of laughing, according to Pangthong.

“*Waterline* was one of the most moving things I’ve seen since I arrived at San Quentin,” said Dwight Krizman.

The sound of rain greeted viewers as they took their



Photo by San Hearn

Juan Mesa holding Anouthinh Pangthong illustrating the story about a mother being carried across a river to give birth

nonprofit, sponsors the Artistic Ensemble inside the walls of San Quentin.

According to a statement in the front of the *Waterline* program, “The Artistic Ensemble is a rigorous, creative practice at San Quentin Prison where participants develop artistic tools with which to explore personal journeys and their

performance. We spent time talking, writing, and discussing issues,” Dowling said. “In the end, the stories that got told are the ones the men wanted to be heard.”

Cast members included Adnan Khan, Anouthinh Pangthong, Antwon William, Carlos Flores, Chris Marshall, Sr., Eric Lowery, Garey Mar-



Photo by San Hearn

Gino Savacos and Carlos Flores rolling bodies across the floor

intersection with systemic forces of poverty, violence, power and incarceration.”

Waterline director Amy Dowling said the group did not initially intend to produce a public performance.

“When we first met, we were not moving towards a

tin, Gary Harrell, Gino Savacos, Ira Perry, Julian Glenn Padgett, Losdini, Nate Collins, Neiland Franks, Richie Morris, Rodney Capell and Upumoni Ama. Directors included Amie Dowling, Freddy Gutierrez, Tatiana Chaterji and Sebastian Alvarez.



Photo by San Hearn

Juan Meza, Carlos Flores, Julian Glenn Padgett and Antoine Williams pulling forward because they don’t want to be stuck

The Immigration Muddle

EDITORIAL

**By Arnulfo Garcia,
Editor-in-Chief**

The 2014 elections put both houses of Congress under Republican control.

In spite of this, President Barack Obama is using his executive power to ease the pathway to citizenship for the nearly 5 million immigrants who contribute to the U.S. economy.

Obama’s speech addressed illegal immigration and the effects that deportation has on children with undocumented parents.

He said, “I’ve seen the heartbreak and anxiety of children whose mothers might be taken away from them just because they didn’t have the right papers.”

“I continue to believe that the best way to solve this

problem is by working together to pass that kind of common sense law. But until that happens, there are actions I have the legal authority to take as President – the same kinds of actions taken by Democratic and Republican presidents before me – that will help make our immigration system more fair and more just.”

“But today, our immigration system is broken -- and everybody knows it.

“Families who enter our country the right way and play by the rules watch others flout the rules. Business owners who offer their workers good wages and benefits see the competition exploit undocumented immigrants by paying them far less.

“All of us take offense to anyone who reaps the rewards

of living in America without taking on the responsibilities of living in America. And undocumented immigrants who desperately want to embrace those responsibilities see little option but to remain in the shadows, or risk their families being torn apart.”

“But today, our immigration system is broken -- and everybody knows it”

Until an immigration plan is established, the threat of deportation puts millions of children of undocumented immigrants at risk. The children struggle with cognitive,

emotional and social problems because of the possibility of being separated from their parents.

The lack of clarity in the immigration policy weakens families and leads to inequality of children’s life chances. The differences in living conditions and disparate access to resources and social safety nets cause disruption. The disruption affects thinking and has long-term consequences for children of immigrants.

In turn, this puts children at risk by impeding their integration or ability to settle into local communities. The health, education and economic integration of those at-risk children also define the nation’s future.

Since this population is an obvious determinant of our future, it must be addressed now.

It was those observations and the lack of Republican support on a comprehensive immigration strategy that guided the Obama administration into action.

The number of children in the U.S. with at least one

foreign-born parent is growing rapidly and is becoming a significant portion of the U.S. population. Understanding this dynamic, the future immigration policy will some day fall into the hands of people our leaders have failed and refused to consider.

More than half of the children of immigrants today come from Latin-American origin, and over 40 percent come from one country: Mexico.

Two other areas provide virtually all children of immigrants today. Asia, which includes China, makes up about 20 percent, and those of Caribbean origin contribute the balance.

By failing to address the undocumented and the immigration issue, the U.S. is casting a wide net of possible failure and negative result, for a huge portion of our future generations.

Political leaders must get real, and face the fact that past government policies have failed to address ever-growing numbers of undocumented immigrants living among us.

Lio de la Inmigración

**Por Arnulfo García
Jefe de Edición**

Las elecciones del 2014 sitúan ambas casas del Congreso bajo el control de los Republicanos.

A pesar de esto, el Presidente Barack Obama esta utilizando su poder ejecutivo para facilitar el camino a la ciudadanía de casi cinco millones de inmigrantes que contribuyen a la economía de los estados Unidos.

El discurso de Obama fue dirigido a la inmigración ilegal y a los efectos que la deportación ocasiona a los niños con padres indocumentados.

Él dijo, “He visto el sufrimiento y la ansiedad de los niños cuyas madres podrían ser arrebatadas solo por no tener los documentos adecuados.”

“Sigo creyendo que la mejor forma para resolver este problema es trabajando juntos para aprobar esa ley de sentido común. Pero hasta que eso ocurra, existen acciones que como presidente tengo la autoridad legal para tomar – la misma clase de acciones tomadas por los anteriores presidentes Demócratas y Republicanos – esto ayudara a que nuestro sistema de inmigración sea más justo e imparcial.”

“Pero en este momento, nuestro sistema de inmigración esta desintegrado – y todos lo saben.”

“Las familias que entran a nuestro país de la manera apropiada y obedecen las reglas, observan como otras personas ignoran las leyes. Los empresarios que ofrecen a sus trabajadores buen salario y beneficios observan como la

competencia explota a los inmigrantes indocumentados al pagarles menos.”

“Todos nosotros nos ofendemos cuando alguien obtiene los beneficios de vivir en América sin asumir las responsabilidades que conlleva vivir en América. Inmigrantes indocumentados que quieren desesperadamente aceptar esas responsabilidades no tiene mucha opción más que permanecer en las sombras o correr el riesgo de que sus familias sean separadas.”

Hasta que un plan de inmigración sea establecido, la amenaza de la deportación pone en riesgo a millones de niños de padres indocumentados. Los niños luchan con problemas sociales, emocionales y cognitivos porque existe la posibilidad de ser separados de sus padres.

La falta de claridad en la póliza de inmigración debilita las familias y esto lleva a la desigualdad de oportunidades en la vida de los niños. Las diferencias en las condiciones de vida y la desigualdad de acceso a los recursos y redes de seguridad social ocasionan una alteración. La alteración afecta la forma de pensar y tiene consecuencias a largo plazo para los hijos de inmigrantes.

A su vez, esto pone en riesgo a los niños ya que dificulta su integración o aptitud para establecerse en las comunidades locales. La salud, educación y la integración económica de esos niños que están en riesgo también determinan el futuro de la nación.

Debido a que esta población es un determinante obvio de

nuestro futuro, debe ser tomado en consideración ahora.

Estas observaciones y la falta de apoyo de los Republicanos sobre una estrategia integral de inmigración fue lo que llevo a la administración de Obama a tomar cartas en el asunto.

El número de niños en los Estados Unidos con al menos un padre nacido en el extranjero esta creciendo rápidamente y esta llegando a ser una porción significativa de la población de los Estados Unidos. Entendiendo esta dinámica, la póliza de inmigración futura algún día caerá en las manos de esa gente que nuestros líderes se han rehusado y fallado a considerar.

Más de la mitad de los hijos de inmigrantes de ahora son de origen Latino-Americano, y más del 40% provienen de un país-México.

Hoy, otras dos áreas suministran virtualmente todos los hijos de inmigrantes: Asia, la cual incluye China, forman cerca del 20%, y aquellos de origen caribeño contribuyen el resto.

Al no considerar a los indocumentados y el tema de inmigración, los Estados Unidos, están arrojando una red amplia de posibles fracasos y resultados negativos para una gran parte de nuestras futuras generaciones.

Los líderes políticos deben ser realistas y enfrentar la realidad que las pólizas gubernamentales previas han fallado en considerar el constante incremento del número de inmigrantes indocumentados viviendo entre nosotros.

—Traducción por
Marco Villa/ Tare Beltranchuc

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appreciation of Knowledge

From Patty:

Hello Lt. Robinson,

I just wanted to reach out and say I really appreciated the article about Officer Hauwert’s transition. It’s incredibly brave of her to be so open, and I think the author of the article did a good job of reporting on

the story in a fair way. I really believe transgender hatred comes from fear and lack of knowledge, so sharing these stories is really important. If it is appropriate to pass on my sentiment to either or both people, please do. Thank you for approving this story.

Patty

Los Angeles County Jail Lawsuit and Realignment

**By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer**

Los Angeles expects a lawsuit will challenge the overcrowding and poor conditions in its jails resulting from Realignment, the county district attorney says.

“You know another lawsuit is coming,” says L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey. “We’re next.”

Imagine triple-stacked bunk beds spaced one foot apart with toilets placed in the middle rows without partitions. This describes one of the temporary living quarters crammed with more than 200 inmates at the Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) in Los Angeles.

According to Christina Villacorte of the *L.A. Daily News*, Sheriff’s Capt. Daniel Dyer grimaced during a recent inspection as he pointed out the men having to eat and sleep a few feet from the toilets. “That’s just wrong,” he said.

MCJ was built in 1963 and has a long history of failing pipes, rusted gates, broken doors, leaking sewage, failing air conditioning systems. Most of the businesses that produced replacement parts to repair these problems no longer exist.

Juan Hernandez, a drug offender said, “Attitudes are popping off.” Another drug offender, Andy Gurule, said he preferred being homeless on the streets rather than being held at MCJ.

Prison Realignment (AB 109) has pushed this overcrowding to the point of forcing L.A. County to hold more than two or three state prison populations. MCJ’s population was about 15,000 three years ago and it now holds 19,000 – 4,000 more than government regulations allow, the newspaper reported.

Gov. Jerry Brown has created a crisis by requiring counties to keep low-level offenders who were once shipped to a state prison, noted County Assistant Chief Executive Officer Ryan Alsop.

The federal courts prompted Realignment when California prisons were declared so overcrowded they violate the Constitution’s ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The price tag to fix the MCJ situation permanently is a whopping \$1.7 billion to demolish the facility and build a modern corrections facility on that site, according to a recent environmental study requested by the county Board of Supervisors.

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

From Nearly Dead ... to Alive and Near Release

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Journalism Guild Writer

After 34 years in prison, Dennis Wayne Pratt is scheduled to walk out of San Quentin on Feb. 1 – a former drug addict who has turned his life in a completely new direction.

His transformation began on Aug. 28, 1988, when drug-filled balloons broke inside his body.

"I thought I was going to die," Pratt recalls. "I yelled out to

God: 'If you get me through this, I will never use drugs or drink again!'"

Pratt ended up being taken to the hospital and later was charged with drug possession.

"I've been clean and sober ever since, but I'm still involved with drugs. Only this time I'm a state-certified addiction counselor. I went from one extreme to another," Pratt said.

Pratt also gives credit to the self-help group Victim's Offend-

er's Education Group (VOEG), which he says helped him understand the victim's point of view.

"I had to become truthful and honest with myself and own up to my stuff and walk through the fire," Pratt said.

"Prior to this hearing, every one of my parole board hearings resembled the Clint Eastwood movie *'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,'* said Pratt. "I'd go in there, sit down and as soon as the commissioners would begin asking me questions, I'd hear the theme song from that movie in my mind."

Pratt equates his current success of being found suitable with three things: pursuing his education, taking self-help classes and the connection with his wife.

As a child he was told he was mentally retarded, and for many years believed that.

Now he has an Associate of Arts degree from Patten College Prison University Project, a diploma from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and is three classes away from getting a second seminary diploma.

He and four other prisoners earned drug counseling certificates. "We're the first in the world to become (CADC) addiction counselors while still incarcerated," he said.

The CADC exams were the most difficult tests he had ever taken in his life, Pratt said.

"Yet I passed. A mentally challenged individual may not have been able to accomplish that," said Pratt. "While I attended Patten, I proved to myself that I'm not dumb, I'm not stupid and I am somebody."

Other programs he complet-

ed were Brother's Keepers and Addiction Counseling Training (ACT), which taught him how to identify his problems.

"Understand, when I first came to prison these self-help groups weren't available for prisoners, and they should have been," said Pratt. "Because years after my incarceration I was still getting into serious trouble."

Pratt, 57, was born in 1957 and convicted of the second-degree murder of Edward Sexton.

"I was burglarizing his home at the time, and Mr. Sexton woke up and confronted me; unfortunately, I made the worst decision ever, and I took his life," Pratt said. "I was a drug addict and my thought process was so messed up at that time I was thinking I didn't want to get busted for burglary."

Pratt said it has taken him years to learn how to think and take responsibility for his crimes. Now is not the time to play games with the board, especially by going in there and spouting law to the board members, he advises.

"Telling them what they can and can't do — no way. Now is the time to go in there and own your stuff and don't make excuses, and if it puts you in a worse light, so be it," he said. "That shows them you're taking full responsibility."

Pratt emphasizes answering their questions truthfully and honestly.

"If the truth of your crime is ugly, they want to know how you got to the point in your life where you chose to take another person's life, because it shows

that you're being honest with yourself and that you're not trying to hide anything," said Pratt.

His journey through CDCR has taken him from San Quentin to Old Folsom in 1981, to Soledad Central in 1983, to CMC in 1986 and back to San Quentin in 1993, where he has been ever since.

Even though he has made positive strides with his addiction, Pratt said that he would like to improve his relationship with family members.

"I've been disowned by my sister, and she considers me to be dead. She bases her decision on both my crime and my incarceration," Pratt said.

Pratt also has a daughter who was six months old when he came to prison. She has three sons he has never met.

"I would love to have a relationship with my daughter and my grandsons. But I understand that will take time, too," said Pratt.

Even without having a relationship with his sister and his daughter, Pratt says he still has found happiness with his wife, who he married in 1997.

"That was one of the most incredible experiences in my life when I saw her the first time, all dressed up and coming toward me. She took my breath away," said Pratt. "And she still takes my breath away every time I see her, oh yeah."

Pratt said the first thing that he is going to do is when he gets out is go fishing.

"I want to have barbecue and get my garden started and put a sign on my door that says 'Gone Fishing,' oh yeah."



File Photo

Dennis Pratt in the San Quentin visiting room

Study Shows Recidivism Rate Still a Problem

Three Out Of Four Inmates Are Re-Incarcerated Within Five Years Of Release

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Recidivism is alive and doing well, according to a federal study.

The Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics conducted a recidivism statistics study from 2005

to 2010 in 30 states. On average, 75 percent of all prisoners released were re-incarcerated within a three- to five-year-period.

SURVEY

Three out of four inmates are re-incarcerated within five years of release, according to

the survey.

"Prisoners released after serving time for a property offense were the most likely to be arrested," according to the statisticians. Drugs and public order was next, followed closely by violent offenders.

The statistics illustrated that if a prisoner had been ar-

rested more than 10 times, the chances of recidivism were much higher. Statisticians term these inmates as "recidivist."

VIOLENT CRIME

The survey shows that 33.1 percent of violent crime offenders were typically re-ar-

rested for violent crime offenses during this five-year period.

When the statistics are broken down into ages, the under-24 group had the highest rate of five-year recidivism at 84.1 percent, and the over-40 group was lower at 69.2 percent.

A recent background update for the bureau is if they started sharing data with the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), and the International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets) to provide the Department of Justice access to criminal history records as of 2008. A security agreement was executed between these agencies to ensure confidentiality.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Nlets developed the Criminal History Records Information Sharing (CHRIS) automated collection system for statistics bureaus to retrieve nationwide criminal history records.

There are several statistical avenues and logical paths to manipulate these percentages by race, gender, crimes, geographic locations, and states, but they all point to the same average for re-incarceration.

'Curly Joe's' Golden Heart of Inspiration

Continued from Page 1

met Curly around 1996. He is a caring and giving person. He is the kind of person you would love to have as a brother. He is the definition of what you call a true friend. No matter what his personal situation may be, Curly will try to help you. He is honest and straight up. You don't find many men like that around a place like this. He is a man truly blessed by God. He will always be a part of my family."

Lead-man and machinist apprentice Ed Ballenger said, "I've gotten to know him quite well over the years, and he's a great guy. He will be missed."

He had a unique perspective to see several changes inside the prison. Along with changes in the administration, he

has watched the start and end of the careers of several correctional officers and staff.

He has witnessed the changes in San Quentin's character as the prison population has flipped over several times.

"I came in as a young man for a crime I sincerely regret," Burrell said before leaving San Quentin. "I've seen a lot of changes going on around here. Some for the better, some worse, but the one thing that's remained constant is the monotony and tediousness of it all. I've been fortunate to find peace, and a position within the machine shop that's given me a modicum of responsibility and lots of friendships I will always cherish."

Burrell was one of the longest-tenured prisoners on San Quentin's mainline.



File Photo

'Curly Joe', Larry Williams and Richard Lindsey having a wonderful day

10,000 Weekly Parolees Have No Place to Call Home

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Many of the approximately 10,000 men and women who parole weekly from U.S. prisons have no home to go to, which contributes to ineffective reintegration and higher recidivism, reported Christopher Moraff in *Next City* magazine. Moraff wrote that 10 percent of those paroled are homeless immediately after their release. In the larger urban cities, where parolees were addicted to drugs, the number was as high as 30 percent. Faith Lutze, criminal justice

professor at Washington State University, said, “Without a safe and stable place to live where they can focus on improving themselves and securing their future, all of their energy is focused on the immediate need to survive the streets.” When surviving the streets becomes the primary goal of the formerly incarcerated, there is less time spent on effectively and successfully reintegrating. For parolees, finding drug treatment facilities, employment, education and for some, mental health treatment is essential to successful reintegration. However, before any of

these factors can be pursued, stable housing is imperative in order for an individual’s parole plan to have a chance of succeeding. Moraff reported that the formerly incarcerated often have difficulty locating property owners who will rent to them, and more importantly, have trouble accumulating the three months’ rent usually required to rent a dwelling. A team of researchers recently completed a comprehensive assessment of a Washington state program that aims to reduce recidivism. The program’s goal was to provide a year of

housing support for high-risk offenders upon their release. The results showed a significant reduction in the number of inmates returning to prison and fewer paroles revoked. Historically, only a few pioneering nonprofits focus their efforts on providing housing for ex-cons. In New York, the Fortune Society runs two successful transitional housing programs. The Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco provides housing along with its drug treatment program. With the success of such programs, state governments are beginning to take notice.

In New York, the Department of Corrections helped launch a housing program called FUSE (Frequent User Service Enhancement) to keep 200 homeless ex-inmates out of jails and shelters. Not only did the program benefit the individuals involved, it also reduced overall yearly costs by \$15,000 per person. Similar programs now are being implemented in a dozen other cities nationwide. In the near future, the increased availability of transitional housing could enhance public safety and greatly reduce the economic and human costs of recidivism.

State Audit Slams How Mentally Ill Can Acquire Guns

34 Of 58 County Superior Courts Failed To File At Least 2,300 Prohibited Person Reports

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

An audit conducted by the Bureau of State Audits last October slammed the California Department of Justice and the courts for failing to identify thousands of mentally ill people who shouldn’t have access to firearms, reported the *Sacramento Bee*.

The audit revealed that 34 out of 58 county Superior Courts failed to file at least 2,300 prohibited person reports to the Department of Justice’s mental health unit from 2010-2012. The actual number of unfiled reports may even be higher because of under-reporting, according to the audit. Legislation by lawmakers early last year appropriated \$24 million to the department

to reduce the backlog of cases of prohibited individuals possessing guns. That number was nearly 21,000 in July 2013. The audit cautioned that public security is jeopardized by the failure of authorities to gather and process prohibited person reports from the courts and mental health institutions. “It is critical that justice improve its outreach and internal processes so its agents

can better protect the public from armed prohibited persons,” the audit said, requesting the Justice Department to increase its outreach and for lawmakers to mandate that reports be filed within 24 hours on all mental health-related prohibited persons. The Armed Prohibited Persons System, which logs people who cannot purchase or possess a gun, is supposed to receive these reports following a court’s finding that a mentally ill person poses a danger to others. Court officials in the majority of the 34 laggard counties said they were not aware of the filing requirements and accused the Justice Department of failing to remind them or mental-health facilities. The audit also found the Justice Department has struggled to process the reports it does receive.

law to extend the time to two court workdays took effect in early 2014.)

“It is critical that justice improve its outreach and internal processes so its agents can better protect the public from armed prohibited persons”

“Given the unprecedented budget cuts to the judicial branch, limited business hours and staff, and other resource issues, the shorter deadline is not recommended,” said Stephen Jahr, the administrative director of the courts. Nevertheless, auditors stood by their recommendation, calling the suggested change “important to public safety.” A statement by Assemblymen Katcho Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo) said the report “confirmed our worst fears — that information about individuals who should be on the list of armed prohibited persons is not being fully reported and is not being reported immediately as required by law.”

Who Checks on the Jails in 58 Counties?

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

Recent legislation has made county jails and agencies responsible for housing and treating non-violent offenders. But who is responsible for those overseeing 58 counties in California? The answer is California’s Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), reported The Chronicle of Social Change. BSCC is a relatively unknown agency with 83 employees and a relatively modest annual budget (\$16 million), but some believe it is capable of exerting tremendous influence because it controls the money that county and state agencies need to treat offenders, renovate jails and build new facilities. “The BSCC is arguably the most powerful corrections

body in the state,” said Brian Goldstein, a policy analyst who works for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CSC). “They oversee data collection, programming and facility grants and the development of regulations across California’s 58 counties.”

“The BSCC is arguably the most powerful corrections body in the state”

The agency has been criticized for approving money for programs whose success or failure has not been connected to the collected data, reported CSC. Board members attribute their problems to inadequate

and outdated resources and a complicated system. Two examples given in the report of complications are that there is no agreed-upon definition for recidivism, and that data collection is difficult. According to board Chair Linda Penner (Fresno County’s former probation chief), data collection is problematic because, “There are 58 counties, doing it 58 different ways.” Gov. Jerry Brown formed the BSCC in 2012, appointing one member of the public to sit with 10 law enforcement officials, one juvenile justice expert and one adult treatment expert. According to CSC, it was formed to be an administrative leader that influences policy and manages costs. They monitor about 500 California jails and holding cells as well as about 100 juvenile halls and camps.

L.A. Times Reports Surge in Early Releases From Overcrowded County Jails

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

California’s prison Realignment has surged early releases from overcrowded county jails, according to a *Los Angeles Times* report. “It changes criminal justice in California,” the *Times* reported, quoting Monterey County Chief Deputy Edward Laverone. “The ‘lock them up and throw away the key’ is gone,” says Laverone, who supervises the jail. Realignment shifted responsibility for low-level offenders from prisons to county jails, beginning in 2011. It was in response to federal court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. Overcrowding stems from more

than four decades of increasing harsh sentencing passed during the war on drugs and three strikes law. A *Times* investigation showed a large shift in who is being released out of jails. The change has increased from an average of 9,700 a month in 2011 to 13,500 this year, according to state jail commission figures. Records show 17,000 released from county jails last October. Los Angeles, which has 25 percent of California’s jail population, often releases male prisoners after serving just 10 percent of their sentences; women are often freed after serving 5 percent of their sentence, the Aug. 18 story reported.

To make sure there is very little danger to the public, both state and local officials are letting out the ones they believed to be the least risky inmates, such as parole violators and those convicted of misdemeanors, said the *Times*. Sidney DeAvila, a convicted sex offender, was jailed 11 times between 2012 and 2013 and freed nearly every time within 24 hours. Days after he got out in February 2013, he raped and killed his 76-year-old grandmother, chopped her body into pieces and was found later that day wearing her jewelry around his neck. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. “Leopoldo Arellano, 39, was

in and out of custody at least 18 times from 2012 to 2014 for violating parole, criminal threats and at least four incidents of domestic battery, according to Los Angeles County jail logs,” the newspaper reported. “It’s justice by Nerf ball. We designed a system that doesn’t work,” said Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman, D-Stockton. “Shifting the location of incarceration” from prisons to jails doesn’t change much, said Barry Krisberg, a University of California at Berkeley law professor. An independent state policy agency, the Little Hoover Commission, recommended last year that California re-

form its complex sentencing laws, which have overwhelmed prisons with many long-term inmates, said the *Times*. “We actually have a de facto sentencing commission in our sheriffs,” said Carle D’Elia, the acting executive director of the Little Hoover Commission. “You have a crazy system of ‘Is the jail full today?’” Superior Court Judge Richard A. Viavianos of San Joaquin County said allowing jailers to override judges “does nothing but undercut integrity ... it loses public confidence. You lose integrity with the defendants. All the way around, it is a bad thing,” he told the *Times*.

New Law Shields Young Offenders

Kid CAT Speaks

By Anouthinh Pangthong
Kid CAT Contributor

Under a new state law, offenders under the age of 22 no longer can be automatically placed in California's highest security prisons, which have a reputation for violence.

This shift is the result of AB1276, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed Sept. 26. It requires California prison administrators to review the placement of young offenders when they first arrive at prison. The law aims to keep youthful inmates out of Level IV prison yards – which offer fewer rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners. Instead, they will be placed in lower-level prisons where access to self-help, vocational training and educational

opportunities are more available.

"One purpose of incarceration is rehabilitation, and young adults can be especially influenced by positive or negative models," the bill reads. "There are often negative influences at higher custody level facilities. In addition, younger inmates tend to be more vulnerable to physical and sexual assault at those facilities."

"Young people are more susceptible than older adults to influences around them, both good and bad. This new law is an opportunity to positively shape the direction of a young person's life," said Elizabeth Calvin of Human Rights Watch.

The law is not a guaranteed ticket to a low-security prison for youth, however. According

to the bill, "if the youth offender demonstrates he or she is a safety risk to inmates, staff or the public, and does not otherwise demonstrate a commitment to rehabilitation, the youth offender shall be reclassified and placed at a security level that is consistent with department regulations and procedures."

Once convicted, prisoners are

given a "classification score" – a number that designates the security level of the prison in which they will be housed. A specially trained committee reviews cases annually.

The law will afford youth offenders who are denied or disqualified from lower-level placement a hearing to reconsider their placement within the prison system. These hearings will be available to young inmates until they are 25, according to the Legislative Counsels Digest.

This latest law is one in a series aimed at shifting how the state handles young prisoners. One law, SB9, aimed to re-sentence juveniles convicted to life sentences without the possibility of parole. Another, SB260, changed the way parole boards consider youth cases.

AB1276 was authored by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) and co-sponsored by the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Human Rights Watch and Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

Michigan Brags About Being Tough on Youth

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Michigan's criminal justice policy is following a national trend to get "tough on crime." State lawmakers proclaim their policies are the "toughest in the nation."

Under the state's justice system, a youth of any age can be charged, tried and sentenced as an adult, requiring offenders to serve 100 percent of their minimum sentence.

"In the past 10 years, about 82 percent of the youth in prison had no high school diploma, nor had they completed a GED"

According to a new study, "Youth Behind Bars," by the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, incarcerated teens have a higher tendency for violent behavior toward officers and other inmates. In addition, the stressors of confinement also contribute to mental health issues. Juveniles entering Michigan's prisons are enrolled automatically in the "Outpatient Mental Health Treatment System."

Youth sent to adult prisons have an elevated percentage of being beaten and sexually assaulted and are 36 times more likely to commit suicide. The ones who are eventually released are 34 percent more likely to reoffend and commit violent crimes.

"People who are treated inhumanely become more inhumane — this is especially true for young people in prison," said Patricia Caruso, former director of the Michigan Department of

Corrections.

Most of the juveniles charged as adults rely on public defenders. However, the study finds that the state's public defense delivery system is "one of the worst in the nation, fraught with inconsistent funding, under-resourced attorneys and a lack of oversight."

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2012 took steps to see that "children under 18 must be treated differently from adults in the criminal system" and mandatory "life without parole for those under 18 is cruel and unusual punishment and unconstitutional."

The Michigan study found that of the youth probationers, 91 percent were 17 years old at the time of their offense and most, 71 percent, committed non-violent offenses. About two-thirds had no previous juvenile record.

According to the study, "In the past 10 years, about 82 percent of the youth in prison had no high school diploma, nor had they completed a GED."

The study recommends

Raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18. This alone would impact 95 percent of the children currently being sent into adult corrections.

Remove youth from adult jails and prisons.

Require oversight and public reporting on youth in the adult system.

Require judicial review of all transfer cases.

Develop policies to reduce the over-representation of youth of color in the adult system.

Provide effective legal representation to youth.

Offer developmentally appropriate and rehabilitative alternatives to youth in the community.

Restrict the use of segregation.

End the option to sentence youth to life without the possibility of parole.

Effectively partner with families and victims at all stages of the criminal justice system.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Kid CAT member Antoine Brown and their sponsor Brenda Galilee-Rhodes

Vera Report Says a Better Approach Is Needed for Juvenile Truants, Runaways

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs to move the handling of juvenile truants and runaways from the courts to community-based organizations, the nonprofit, nonpartisan Vera Institute of Justice reports.

"Despite the noncriminal nature of these behaviors, youth in approximately 10,400 cases spent time in detention," the institute's December 2013 report said.

"A new paradigm has emerged: Connect families with social services in their communities, instead of turning to the courts," the report noted. This saves millions of dollars, Vera said.

This status offense response is needed when a juvenile runs away from home or routinely skips school, possibly engaging in bad behavior because of his or her age. A study showed around 137,000 status offense cases were reported in 2010. Nearly 50,000, or 36 percent, were going to court for allegations of truancy, said Vera.

In one case, Teresa, a 14-year-old Florida girl, lost her mother and was overwhelmed with the loss, her father grieving in his own way. She began sneaking out at night to be with her 20-year-old boyfriend. When the father found out, he disciplined her

harshly, which made matters worse, and one day she went to school and did not come back home, the report said.

Her father called the police. When the police found her, they took her to the respite shelter to be safe. In a very short time, a crisis counselor started working with her and she was back with her father in three days.

"Despite the noncriminal nature of these behaviors, youth in approximately 10,400 cases spent time in detention"

If she had been in a state without status offense response, the father might have had to file a status offense complaint, as his daughter had run away. She might have gone to court and then to a corrections facility for juveniles, said the institute.

The change is cost-effective and helps children morally and ethically to be at home rather than in juvenile detention, which could make the problem worse, Vera concluded.

Most courts are not suited for status offense cases, as such juvenile cases are called, the report said. Most courts are overloaded, which causes slow response time. Even a few days can be a crisis and put the youths at risk and make it harder for them to come back to their parents, Vera said.

"Families require a faster response and a different kind of response than courts and the juvenile justice system as a whole can offer," the report said.

The Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in Calcasieu Parish, La., has a centralized point for intake for families. Since this agency started, the number of status offense cases petitioned in court has decreased to only 1 percent of all referrals. "The delay between seeking help and receiving help has dropped dramatically, from 50 days or more to roughly two hours," said the institute.

Does the community-based programming work? Yes, says the Vera Institute. The state of Florida has a network of nonprofit organizations that run 24 hours a day and seven days a week to assist families in crisis. A 2011 cost-benefit study estimated the state saved more than \$160 million in juvenile justice out-of-home placement costs.

NEW REENTRY APPROACH

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

A watchdog group from Oakland is sponsoring a reentry program for men ages 19 to 30 who are currently incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison and Santa Rita Jail.

The organization named PUEBLO is a police watchdog and advocacy organization that also operates youth projects such as Alameda County’s Highway to Work programs and the Youth Urban Harvest, according to Pamela Drake of the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center.

PUEBLO is expanding its offerings with the award of a contract from the Alameda County Mental Health Department with funding from Assembly Bill 109, designed to assist formerly incarcerated young men, Drake said.

This new approach to reentry will focus on practical ways to seek employment and housing while assisting with other social service needs. Other program services, which include mental health, family relations and restorative justice, are designed for “both the community and the formerly incarcerated,” Drake said.

The organization’s programs provide Balancing the Inner and Outer (BIO) support with an integrated holistic approach combined with skilled training, enterprise development and mentorship.

The programs are designed

to address trauma, “helping released individuals repair the harm they have caused and establishing productive relationships with their community,” according to the Innovations in Reentry website.

“We’ve been operating 11 years without support from government agencies because its funding mechanisms are too rigid and restrictive”

One key component of BIO’s program is focusing on the damage and harm caused by these young men’s criminal behavior so that they may have “productive relationships with their community,” Drake said.

The director of this new project is Isaac Taggart, who was the reentry coordinator under former Oakland Mayor Ron Dellum, Drake said.

“He is in the process of developing an intake structure at San Quentin and Santa Rita so that PUEBLO’s client will be able to seamlessly reintegrate into the support this program provides,” Drake said. Taggart’s advocacy experience working with disenfranchised

youth in Oakland will be an enormous asset to the new organization, Drake added.

His background and experience as an independent bookstore operator and activist in Oakland gives him creditability to reach out to other businesses in the community to find jobs for his clients, she said.

“Our program services focus on reentry throughout the state,” said Allyson West, executive director of the California Reentry Program, another reentry program at San Quentin. Her organization provides services in career advice, college, financial aid, substance abuse treatment, employment, housing referrals and child support exclusively for San Quentin inmates of all ages.

PUEBLO’s new program platform will concentrate on reentry of men in Alameda County only.

“We’ve been operating 11 years without support from government agencies because its funding mechanisms are too rigid and restrictive,” West said. Her nonprofit organization raises money the old-fashioned way: The California Reentry Program writes grants and solicits contributions from private foundations and donations from private individuals.

The California Reentry Program meets every Tuesday and Thursday. “We are looking forward to working with PUEBLO wherever they get set up here at San Quentin,” West said.

New York Shows Good Reentry Programs Are Essential to Curbing Recidivism

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Helping jail prisoners reenter the community is essential to curb recidivism.

“There is a clear need for greater emphasis on jail reentry because of the sheer volume of the jail population and the importance of addressing their needs,” concluded a report on crime and delinquency by SAGE Publications.

REPORT

The report, “Exploring Inmate Reentry in a Local Jail Setting: Implications for Outreach, Service Use and Recidivism,” focused on a reentry program developed 10 years ago in New York City as a successful example of civic investment in improving participants’ lives and lower recidivism.

“It functions as an in-reach, outreach program in which the

New York City Department of Corrections pays for up to 90 days of post-release services,” the report said.

INVEST

Civic administrators have long been reluctant to invest in reentry programs because of the many failed attempts in the past.

In 2004, the City of New York ended this debate by creating a discharge mandate for reentry participation, which required comprehensive pre- and post-release services to inmates of Rikers Island. The Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE) program begins by motivating Rikers inmates through videos, literature, posters, billboards and persistent reminders from the jail staff. After release, RIDE links former inmates with appropriate health and human service organizations in the community in order to provide

a continuum of care during a 90-day reentry process.

The history of reentry programs shows that inmates need a tremendous amount of pre- and post-release support to get positive results. K. Coughlin, deputy commissioner of discharge planning for NYC, said on July 5, 2007, that “program-weary and program-wary” inmates were disappointed by numerous social service systems.

RESEARCH

But ultimately, reentry researchers found that inmates who completed a full 90 days of post-release services had far better results than those who received fewer than 90 days of post-release service or those who did not participate at all.

Since then, a number of jurisdictions across the country have started to implement programs similar to the RIDE program.

Despite Reforms, ‘Staggering Racial Disparities Remain’ in Drug Arrests

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Policymakers, researchers and law enforcement report reforms in marijuana laws have had positive effects on criminal justice policy and could save billions of dollars. But “staggering racial disparities remain” in drug use arrests, “and in some cases are

exacerbated,” reports the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ).

“African Americans are still more likely to be arrested for marijuana offenses after reform than all other races and ethnicities were before reform,” reported Mike Males and Lizzie Buchen of CJCJ.

The report is titled *Reforming*

Marijuana Laws: Which Approach Best Reduces the Harms of Criminalization? A Five-State Analysis. It studied California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington and measured the “effectiveness in reducing marijuana arrests and their impact on various health and safety outcomes.”

The report also concluded:

Decriminalization in California has not resulted in harmful consequences for teenagers, such as increased crime, drug overdose, driving under the influence or school dropout. In fact, California teenagers showed improvements in all risk areas after reform.

Decriminalization more effectively reduced associated

harms of drug use arrests, such as fines, jail time, community service, a criminal record, loss of student loans and court costs for people of all ages, particularly for young people.

All states experienced substantial declines in marijuana possession arrests, but further reforms are needed to address racial disparities.

Veterans Column

All Military Veterans Are Now Welcomed

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin’s veterans organization has adopted changes designed to welcome all military veterans, not just those who served in Vietnam.

Part of that effort changes the group’s name from Vietnam Veterans’ Group of San Quentin to Veterans’ Group of San Quentin.

“We see the group as not only veterans that served with honorable service, but citizens of the country they love who are trying to earn a chance at reintegration into American society to live the freedom they fought for,” said Chairman Chris Schumacher.

“We see the group as not only veterans that served with honorable service, but citizens of the country they love”

When formed in 1987, the intention was to serve all honorably discharged veterans of any branch of the United States armed services from any era.

It continues to be the vision

of the VGSQ to bring structure and personal accountability into the lives of its members. Outreach has become an integral part of the VGSQ’s efforts. The intent is to reintegrate veterans into society and give veterans the opportunity to serve their communities inside and outside prison.

Since 1990, America has experienced other military conflicts such as Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq and Afghanistan, and now battles terrorist organizations such as ISIS/ISIL, as well as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram in Africa.

Outreach includes these activities:

1) The Holiday Toy Program, which receives Christmas gifts for children from the Marines’ Toys for Tots program.

2) Operation MOM, which packs care packages for troops overseas.

3) The Veterans’ Scholarship Award, which gives money to children of veterans for college.

4) The Veterans’ Issues Group (VIG), which helps incarcerated veterans with a variety of issues including but not limited to PTSD, substance abuse, addictions and trauma.

5) Tabs for Tots, in which the VGSQ collects tabs from aluminum soda cans, which are then mailed to the Ronald McDonald House.

New Facility Help Ready Females to Reenter Society

By Rudy Morales
Journalism Guild Writer

CDCR has established a new facility to help prepare female inmates to reenter society successfully.

The Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program in San Diego will provide women inmates with rehabilitative and transitional services, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced in an August news release.

“This reentry facility is yet another example of California’s commitment to rehabilitation and better preparing inmates for life after their release,” said CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard.

“Investing in rehabilitation

pays dividends in the long run. For every offender who successfully transitions back into society, California taxpayers save thousands of dollars.”

The state currently spends some \$60,000 per year per prison inmate. The new center has an annual operating budget of \$2.4 million. The nonprofit WestCare Foundation signed a four-year contract to operate the facility.

The CDCR-owned facility will house 82 women inmates, with the possibility of increasing to 118 in the future. Prospective inmates must have less than 24 months left to serve in prison.

Programs will include employment guidance, family reunification and substance abuse.

Judge Tells Santa Clara to Expand Its Residential Treatment Centers

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Last September, a Superior Court judge ordered the county of Santa Clara to expand its residential treatment centers to accommodate newly released offenders from its jails, reported Jennifer Wadsworth in *San Jose Inside*.

The county Board of Supervisors considered allocating \$526,000 of Assembly Bill 109

funds to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services to add up to 130 treatment beds in order to comply with the Superior Court order.

The need for the extra beds results from a federal court order capping California's prison population at 137.5 percent of designed capacity in 2011. The state responded to the order by shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders to county governments.

"The department determined that the current residential capacity was not adequate to meet the needs of the criminal justice system," according to a memo presented to the supervisors, *San Jose Inside* reported. "Offering more inpatient drug treatment would reduce the jail population and improve outcomes of defendants," the memo continued.

The outcomes for residential treatment are better than for outpatient services, Wadsworth

reported. Of the 171 patients released from county-contracted residential rehab last year, 70 percent completed treatment and 18 percent left with satisfactory progress. For outpatient clients, 39 percent left with satisfactory

progress while fewer completed treatment.

Wadsworth noted that it takes more time for someone in jail to get into residential rehab (25-day waiting list) than someone off the streets (16 days).



File Photo

Santa Clara County Jail

LATINOS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Latinos are disproportionately victims of crime and the criminal justice system, according to a report by Californians for Safety and Justice.

The report states that Latinos are significantly overrepresented in the state's courts, jails and prisons, and as crime victims.

Latinos are the largest ethnic group in California, and "have been dis-served by current criminal justice practices," said Lenore Anderson, executive director of the non-profit advocacy organization, as reported by Brenda Gazar of the Los Angeles Daily News.

"Unless and until we start to incorporate the experiences of the Latino community in our policy priorities, we'll continue to see both over-incarceration rates as well as probably disproportionate rates of victimization," Anderson added.

Californians for Safety and Justice said it aims to increase public safety and reduce waste in the state's criminal justice system. It commissioned Roberto Suro of the University of Southern California to compile and analyze much of the report's data. The research indicates that three decades of a failed system has particularly harmed Latino communities.

The findings cited that Latinos were murdered in California in 2011 at twice the rate of whites (5.1 per 100,000 compared to 2.4) and even higher for Latinos under the age of 30 (6.1).

Firearms were used nearly 73 percent of the time that year

versus 54 percent of the time for whites. Latinos were more likely to have been murdered by strangers than were whites (40.5 percent vs. 26 percent), according to the California Attorney General's Office.

"It ends up being a pipeline to incarceration that begins at the police station in the moments after the arrest"

A 2011 federal report found that Latinos, more than any other ethnic group, were convicted of offenses receiving mandatory sentences. A 2005 analysis of felony defendants in urban courts found that Latinos were less likely to be released on their own recognition, more likely to be denied bail and issued higher bail amounts than African-Americans or whites in similar circumstances, according to a *Justice Quarterly* article.

Those who are in jail while awaiting trial can end up coping pleas in order to get out or have difficulty mounting a defense because of limited access to attorneys, witnesses and their community, the report said.

"It ends up being a pipeline to incarceration that begins at the police station in the moments after the arrest," Suro commented. "One in which Latinos are particularly vulnerable by virtue of language,

income, lack of knowledge of the system," commented Suro.

While the consequences were severe and disproportionate for Latinos, the results for African-Americans were even worse by many measures, Suro added.

The report indicated the justice system should provide culturally competent and Spanish-language services to meet the community's needs and improve support and services for Latino survivors of crime.

The States Leading the Federal System In Rethinking Drug Sentencing Laws

'Sentence reduction for low-level drug offenses would reduce the federal prison population'

The federal government may be rethinking drug sentencing laws, but many states have done it already, according to a report by the Pew Research Center.

"Federal drug policy is in the midst of a major conceptual shift away from the long, automatic prison sentences and zero-tolerance policies of the 'War on Drugs' era," the April 2 report says. "But it's the states, whose prisons house the vast bulk of U.S. convicts, that have been leading the way in changing drug laws."

"Much of the current rethinking of America's drug war speaks to today's environment: Violent crime has fallen, attitudes toward drugs have shifted and the Great Recession has squeezed pub-

lic budgets."

A main factor has been the increased cost of keeping people locked in prisons, from \$14,603 per prisoner in Kentucky to a high of \$60,076 in New York, based on 2010 data reported by the Vera Institute. The average cost in 2014 for California is \$60,000 per prisoner per year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said sentence reduction for low-level drug offenses would reduce the federal prison population.

The Pew research shows 67 percent of the public want drug offenders treated instead of imprisoned. Also, 63 percent say states should do away with mandatory pris-

on sentences for non-violent drug offenders.

Holder points out that about half of the 200,000 federal inmates have been convicted of a drug offense.

Many states have made lowered penalties for possession and use of illegal drugs. They have cut mandatory sentence enhancements and have jurisdiction of drug courts outside the regular criminal justice system, according to the Pew report.

A March survey by Pew Research found that 72 percent of Americans believe efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than it is worth. Sixty percent said federal anti-marijuana laws should not be enforced in states where marijuana is legal.

—By Wesley R. Eisiminger

Erasing Misdemeanor Records Boosts Job Opportunities

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Expunging misdemeanors from criminal records can help applicants get jobs, according to David Stern, executive director of a Washington-based nonprofit called Equal Justice Works (EJW).

EJW recently won \$1.4 million from AmeriCorps to launch an Employment Opportunity Legal Corps.

Karen Sloan of the National Law Journal (NLJ) reported that organizers of EJW plan to send 40 lawyers and 360 law students to legal aid organizations throughout the

country. Beginning in August 2014, the teams will help poor people eliminate some of the legal problems that hurt their chances of securing employment.

"At least half of African-American men are arrested by the time they are 23 years old"

According to the NLJ report, EFW Director Stern said,

"Sixty-five million Americans have criminal records," and "misdemeanors can be a blemish when employers do a criminal record check. These applicants don't get called back for interviews."

Two-thirds of all criminal records involve misdemeanors and more than 90 percent of employers use criminal records to screen employees, Sloan reported.

Stern said research has shown that job applicants who report a criminal record are 50 percent less likely to get a call back than someone who does not report such a record. The numbers are far worse for

blacks with criminal records, who are 250 percent less likely to get a call back.

"At least half of African-American men are arrested by the time they are 23 years old," Stern said, adding. "No matter how much vocational training people have, criminal backgrounds prevent them from getting a job."

Research done by a legal aid clinic run by the UC Berkeley School of Law found that expunging criminal records increased a person's earnings by 20 percent and that 73 percent of people whose records were expunged got jobs within four months.

"There are a lot of layers to the process," said Stern, noting that although 40 states now allow removal of minor infractions from criminal records, legal assistance is required.

Since employers use credit report agencies to perform checks, EJW corps will ensure that these reporting agencies receive the updated information.

According to Sloan's NLJ article, "The program is modeled after Equal Justice Works' Veteran's Legal Corps, which sends lawyers and law students into temporary jobs assisting veterans."

GRIP Graduation Honors 72

Continued from Page 1

gram. “It is a best-practices model, born from 18 years of pioneering and working with thousands of prisoners,” its program read. Verduin is executive director of Insight-Out, a process used by GRIP, which takes participants on a healing journey deep inside themselves to come back out transformed and ready to serve others. The Insight-Out process uses former prisoners as “Change Agents.” The Change Agents say they are ready to give back to the communities they once took from, work with at-risk youth and teach those who are still incarcerated. Esmirna Tibay, who is inmate Damon Cooke’s girlfriend said that she has noticed “big changes” in Cooke. “His anger is gone,” she said. “If it weren’t for GRIP, I might have left him,” she joked — “maybe,” she added, smiling at him. “I’m really excited to be here



Photo by San Hearnes

Tribe 671 raising their hands for the purpose of for us by us about us

and understand the hurt you’ve made, we welcome you. I know you can make a difference. We all have the chance to be a peacemaker. I want you all to take that pledge. I look forward to seeing you on the streets.” Mitchell said that she sees a

lifers have come back since I’ve been here and both only for parole violations. So I know it makes a difference.” The GRIP program recognizes its graduates through a ceremony called “A Rite of Passage.”

belong. The larger community that bears witness to the GRIP graduation ritual serves to actualize this right of passage when members transition from offenders to servants.” Robert Frye, a GRIP graduate, paroled from San Quentin

other paroled GRIP graduate, Richard Polma. “What a beautiful thing to be free, knowing that the work we’re doing helps create true peacemakers. These men are saving lives and are carrying the peacemaking word to the world. That’s the



Photo by San Hearnes

Alfonza Merritt receives his certificate and is greeted by Senior Probation Officer Mike Daly and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell

because I get the opportunity to witness lives being and continuing to be transformed,” added Natalie Tovar, a Walkenhorst Customer Relationship Manager. Speaking to the graduating inmates, then Acting Warden Kelly Mitchell said, “Each one of you, who have the courage

big difference between Pelican Bay and San Quentin. She said that programs like the ones at San Quentin bring down the amount of inmate violence. She continued talking about how programs help offenders once they are released from prison. “Our inmates get out and stay out,” Mitchell said. “Only two

The Rite of Passage reads, “Together we learn that being free isn’t just a geographic fact; it’s not just the other side of the gate. At the heart of being free is not knowing where you are, but knowing who you are. That identity is sustained by building a tribe or community that helps remind you how and where you

several months ago. He said that he is currently employed as an electrician and that he and several other San Quentin alumni conduct speaking engagements at local colleges and youth facilities, touting GRIP, Victim Offender Education Group and Restorative Justice practices. “Today is a glorious day. It’s a day of recognition,” added an-

greatest gift we can give toward public safety.” Gayle McLaughlin, who termed out as Richmond mayor, now sits on the city council and continues to support the self-help group The Richmond Project. McLaughlin said that “Richmond Rises” is an anti-violence group that welcomes returning citizens to a safe environment.



Photo by San Hearnes

Clearance Hill excepting his certificate



Photo by San Hearnes

Jaime Sanchez, Miguel Salazar and Tare Beltranchuc



Photo by San Hearnes

Albert Montgomery, Vance Andrew and wife with Gilbert Garcia and family

2 'Peace Making' Participants



Photo by San Hearn

Graduates are being congratulated by their sponsors, friends and outside guests

"There's a real commitment by the men in The Richmond Project to give back to the youth," she said. "We are working on a one-stop center in Richmond for returning citizens, called the Welcoming Center."

"Excellent, beautiful feeling to be here — my son came all the way from Sweden to be here," said inmate David Jassy, 40, one of the graduates. "GRIP teaches getting in touch with your emotions and emotional intelligence and conflict resolution. We're all humans and we're all the same; we just go through different journeys. These are things I want to teach my son. I want him to see that all these men chose certain paths, and this is where they ended up. Since I can't be out there and teach him, at least this gives him an opportunity to see a role model. Even if just for a few hours ... It takes away from the stereotypical ... I hope it inspires him to be a peacemaker."

"I sincerely hope Jeffrey Beard and all the wardens recognize the excellent programming being offered at San Quentin. It should be funded and offered at all California institutions," said Mike Daly, a senior probation officer.

Eric Villanueva: The number one reason I became involved in the GRIP group is to stop my violence and to have the tools and knowledge so never again will I feel the need to do harm to anyone.

Johnnie Walker: What I got out of the GRIP program is number one; how to stop my violence and do no harm; number

two; how I practice turning the tool from the GRIP program into life skills; and number three; the importance of becoming a peacemaker.

take things personal and to be patient with my actions in order to respond to things instead of reacting. Be in peace Mr. Clarence Hill!

Charlie Thao (Tribe 654):

no harm. Best of all, I learned to develop emotional intelligence. Now I am free from problems and blame. I now know to trust my experience with my identity.



Photo by San Hearn

Survivors of violent crimes, Jeni Lyons, Christine and Keith DeBlasi addressing the audience about forgiveness and change

Joseph Demerson: What I really enjoyed about the GRIP program was that the program created a safe environment for me to analyze my past to be able to understand my present emotional state. Secondly, GRIP allowed me to process the pain from my past with a deep understanding of emotional intelligence.

Clayborne Dennis: Being part of Tribe 654 has opened my eyes to understand not to

Through GRIP, I learned that *hurt people hurt people, healed people, heal people*, and that only through forgiveness of ourselves and from others that can cease this rage.

Thomas R. Jeffery: In GRIP I've learned to put a handle on violence, how to stop and think, how not to take everything personal, how to embrace life, the good and the bad.

Lam Hong: From GRIP, I learn to stop my violence and do

Jeffery A. Williams (Tribe 654): Most importantly, the GRIP program has clearly demonstrated my part in becoming a peacemaker. I and I alone am responsible for how I respond to life's challenges.

Tare Beltranchuc: The GRIP program has equipped me with the tools and techniques to cope with potential violent situations in a skillful manner.

Jaime Sanchez: About the GRIP program, I learn that

even though I grew up in a difficult place and that a lot of my character defects are the result in grand part of my up-bringing. I do not have to remain stuck in my old ways but instead I can choose to become a better person, a person capable of being what I was meant to be in the first place. A person which new priority is to be a peacekeeper.

Johnny Gomez: The best thing about graduating from GRIP was the expression of pride on my mom's, dad's and son's face.

Benny Wiggins: What I've learned in the GRIP program is process my emotions by feeling them and releasing my emotions assertively and properly non-violent communication.

Ricky Penalzo: What I get out of this self-help group GRIP is how to deal with my anger, attitude and feelings for other people and how to communicate as a peacemaker.

Damon L. Cooke (Tribe 654): If we live long enough, changes are we'll experience the crossroads of "Integrity" and the questions that haunt us all when confronted. GRIP is the answer.

Ron Ehde: The GRIP program has helped me to come out of my shell to learn, grow and be a part of something bigger than myself.

Jesse Smith: I have a sense of understanding and insight into my feelings that have been bottled up for so long. I also have dealt with problems better. Now I'm able to take a step back.

James Wortham: I understand my sensations, emotions and thoughts and how they co-incided in harmony allows me to be more compassionate and respond skillfully.

Terry Clark (Tribe 654): GRIP helped me to understand victims impact, to make amends and make peace with the life. I had no right to take, to transform myself to become a peacemaker.

Ernest Hill (Tribe 654): What GRIP means to me and what I gain from the program is the self of family and being willing to express any feelings and emotions without individual judging me behind showing those emotions.

Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story



Photo by San Hearn

Vaughn Miles and Gayle McLaughlin standing outside the Protestant Chapel



Photo by San Hearn

Terence Jassy listens to his father David Jassy as he performs at the graduation

Ministers List Bay Area Reentry Program Opportunities

'You have to be prepared to work harder than you ever did in your life'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Two experts on offender reentry programs recently came to San Quentin to talk about opportunities available to parolees released in the Bay Area. Evelyn Vigil and Dora Ford, who are both ordained ministers, said there are plenty of prospects, but many more are needed.

Ford talked about the Taylor Street Services Center, a 65-bed reentry facility at 111 Taylor St. in San Francisco. Vigil spoke about her connections with reentry facilities in Santa Clara County.

In order to get into the Taylor Street program, a person must be referred by the parole office, Ford explained. Rather than trying to get there on your own, "It's possible for someone with parole services to meet you at the prison gate," she said. Once at Taylor Street, "You can go to school or look for work. You can stay there for three months, and then get it extended." Room and board and classes are free.

"We work with people who want to get out of gang life. The pressures to be a man in our society today are greater than they were 50 years ago"

Ford, who served as the director of Taylor Street Services Center for 20 years, said the inmates can learn about their strengths and weaknesses and how to move forward in life. "You can learn jobs skills, resume writing. Some of the best agencies are nearby in the Tenderloin

area," she said.

Ford compared the Taylor Street Center to Delancey Street or Walden House. The facility has televisions in all the rooms. There is a recreation room and programs such as meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, religious services and GED classes. There are also job-training classes in construction and plumbing.

To start over as an ex-felon, "You have to be prepared to work harder than you ever did in your life," Ford said. "The first weeks you're there, you don't have to do anything except plan your future."

Ford describes the Taylor Street Center as a clean and sober living environment where residents learn how to deal with anger and learn to understand their history and risk factors.

"If you come from a family with abuse problems, it is a factor that you'd have to consider," Ford said. "Having a clean and sober living environment is helpful."

Both women agree that the need is great and more could be done to help parolees get a fresh start. Ford said, "Facilities like this need more resources allocated to them. And the food can be better," she said, laughing.

"It's difficult to find a job with a prison record. The cost of living is high," added Vigil. "Re-establishing relationships isn't easy. We underestimate how hard it is to be out of prison. It comes down to being flexible and knowing how to deal with frustration."

Vigil said that her reentry service experience began while working at California Medical Facility at Vacaville. There she worked with release planning as a chaplain. Currently, Vigil works in the Santa Clara County Jail as facility chaplain.

Vigil's job is to coordinate bilingual services for all faiths at the jail. She said that yoga, creative writing, relaxing classes and forgiveness



File Photo

Minister Evelyn Vigil resting at home

classes are offered in the jail, even in the maximum-security services areas.

Vigil said the one-on-one services provided to serious offenders are "what we do best." A Stanford professor teaches the forgiveness classes.

"We are getting more and more level fours," Vigil said, referring to the more serious offenders. She observes that younger detainees are being arrested for more serious offenses. Moreover, offenders are being held in jail for longer periods.

"One guy has been in for seven years fighting his case," she said. "That's a long time to be in county jail with a lot of active gang members."

"Our services are effectively getting through to some of the gang members," Vigil said. "I remember once while going to a grocery store, this guy says 'Hey, church lady, I'd like you to meet my wife or kid.' And, he says, 'I'm working and taking care of my family.' I say, 'Thank

God.' It's powerful to see the success.

"We work with people who want to get out of gang life. The pressures to be a man in our society today are greater than they were 50 years ago. Before you just went into the military, but today, there're so many choices."

Vigil pointed out that there are reentry services throughout Santa Clara County.

"The idea is that the inmates come out of jail with a community," Vigil said.

There are many faith-based services available that provide clothes, transportation and health kits to newly released offenders. "It's hands-on services," Vigil said. "Churches pick up people when they're released. We need to get other churches involved to help with the housing problems. A [Santa Clara] homeless encampment called 'the jungle' is the largest in the country. But, there's no place for them to be housed. The county is working hard to try to find housing."

Vigil said the high real estate cost in the Bay Area makes it hard for people reentering after incarceration. "People who have records have problems finding housing based on all these issues," she said. "A lot of newly released people don't want to go to the homeless shelters because there are a lot of bad influences in those places."

According to Vigil, one of the better places that take in ex-cons is Goodwill Industries on 7th Street in San Jose. Goodwill has a parolee job-training program that lasts a year. However, the program has a long waiting list. "A lot of the guys coming out of prison aren't used to working," Vigil noted. "But in all areas, Goodwill has great programs that teach jobs skills."

The Salvation Army facility is another training option but it also is hard to get into, Vigil said. "If you can follow the rules, you can stay there for a year. It's a 'one-stop shop' from transportation to health care."

Centerforce Graduates 40 Inmates From Health Program

Continued from Page 1

with each other and skills acquired throughout the program.

"When we have these classes and I see a light go on (among students), that makes me feel motivated and inspired," said Lonnie Morris, an incarcerated facilitator for the program. "This has been an enlightening experience for me."

The atmosphere in the room was festive as the men applauded and cheered each other on. "Congratulations, brother" could be heard spoken from one inmate to another.

"I want to thank and commend you for being committed and consistent," said Jessica McGhie, who is Centerforce's manager of the peer health program and one of its transitional case managers. She said this is

the third class she has taught at San Quentin. "I appreciated the opportunity to teach this class."

A cultural ritual, marking the completion of each class, is to have the men form a circle. They then toss a ball of string to someone across the circle. As the process is repeated it eventually forms a web in the center; a symbol that reinforces their bond.

"Luz, vida, esperanza," (light, life, hope) is what each man said as they wrapped the string three times around their hand. They then shared something experienced or learned in the class.

"I appreciate it so much," said Samuel Woige as he thanked the class. He said a friend of his died of AIDS.

"I've learned that the information is priceless," said Jessie

Reed. "I took the class because I wanted to know more."

Centerforce teaches four 11-week training sessions a year at San Quentin with an additional ongoing class to provide general information that meets on Fridays.

"Every person in a cell should take this class," said Thrower. "It teaches you how to avoid certain things in prison."

Centerforce is one the oldest groups at San Quentin. It was founded in 1975 "to address the needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration," according to one of its pamphlets.

The program has been around for so long that people are familiar with it, McGhie said.

For more than 15 years, Centerforce has provided its peer

education class at San Quentin. Today the program is offered at Central California Women's Facility, Valley State Prison and Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail, providing peer health education to more than 300 inmates a year.

McGhie said Centerforce's transitional case managers assist men with parole dates to prepare for return to the community.

While Centerforce focuses on health and disease prevention in prison, it also provides parolees with housing referrals, links those with chronic illnesses to transitional case management providers and assists with education and employment goals.

Centerforce is a nonprofit organization funded by grants and donations. It is one of the primary sponsors of the annu-

al TRUST Health Fair at San Quentin.

Centerforce literature says it "Hires, trains, supervises and supports people living in prison."

At San Quentin, Centerforce's primary staff of three includes Dr. Julie Lifshay, program specialist and project manager; McGhie, peer health program manager and transitional case manager; and Gordhamer, transitional case manager (Alameda County). Delores Lyles, Abayomi Brame and Jannette Smith work on the outside and come into San Quentin as needed. Larry Hill is the executive director based in Oakland.

Upon departing, one inmate said, "This class was really insightful; with all the information I learned it's going to help me live a healthy life."

San Quentin's Inmate Radio Crew Honored With Award

By Krissi Khokhobashvili
CDCR Public Information
Officer

Stories of hope, recovery and rehabilitation are hitting the airwaves thanks to an inmate-run radio program at San Quentin.

Now in its third year, the hard-working San Quentin Prison Report (SQPR) radio crew can now say they are an award-winning radio station. The inmates, staff and volunteers who create the program were honored with a Society of Professional Journalists Northern California 2014

Excellence in Journalism Award for Community Journalism.

"To me, what makes it exceptionally special is that it's not just for one person, it's for a group working together," said Nigel Poor, the lead volunteer at SQPR. "It's so wonderful to be able to feel proud about a group of people and have it not just be about one person. Sharing that news with the guys was one of the highlights of my life."

Those guys make up a creative, efficient, well-trained team of journalists who spend countless hours creating the show, from pitching story ideas to interviewing subjects, transcribing and editing audio – the end result being a professional-quality show.

Volunteer Nigel Poor discusses the radio program's production process while Shadeed Wallace-Stepster looks on.

The program is aired not only on closed circuit to SQSP inmates, but also to the public via the Bay Area's KALW, the program's community partner and fellow recipient of the award. In addition to providing a public forum for the show, KALW has also provided training to the inmates on how to produce a radio show.

While KALW does training and provides suggested edits, the entire show is produced by the inmates – right down to the music, which is composed and recorded by inmate David Jassy, a lifelong musician.

"One thing we wanted when we got the training is we wanted to make that we were put in the position to tell our stories and not have somebody else tell our stories," said inmate Troy Williams.

"We'd watch all these shows about prison, and they always talk about prison from somebody else's perspective. They always talk about it from the bad side; they never talk about



Photo by San Hearnes

Back row standing: Greg Eskridge, Lt. Robinson and Jason Jones
Front row: Tommy Ross, Holly Kernan, Sha Wallace-Stepter, Nigel Poor, Curtis Carrol, Luis Scott, David Jassy and Troy Williams

redemption, they never talk about transformation, they never talk about the struggles that a person goes through trying to change in this type of environment."

Williams, inmate facilitator of the San Quentin Prison Report, paroled in October after 18 years in prison, thanks in large part to his participation in numerous rehabilitative programs. He paroled just days after learning about the SPJ award.

Williams said being involved in rehabilitative programs was key to being approved for parole.

"Going through the programs allows you to gain the insight and the empathy to relate to your victims and what you did," he said.

Williams plans to re-enter the film and radio industry, this time from the outside, continuing SQPR's storytelling. He said he'll seek out community stories to share, creating a "part-

media experts who share their knowledge through workshops at SQPR.

The inmates use Pro Tools, the industry standard for editing, which was donated by Mark Jeffery, one of the original engineers of the software. Jeffery also taught the crew how to use it.

It's these partnerships which make SQPR work, from prison officials supporting the program to outside volunteers giving their time to teach. SQPR members emphasized the work of KALW's Holly Kernan, named in the award, for her many hours of time volunteering at the prison.

SQPR also produces film projects, under the guidance of TV Specialist Larry Schneider. It was Schneider who convinced Williams to branch out from film to radio, and who was a strong promoter of starting the radio program. San Quentin State Prison Television Specialist Larry Schneider was a driving force behind getting the radio program started at the prison.

"Maybe it sounds like a cliché, but 'each one, teach one,'" Schneider said. "When I first came to this prison I had a crew of five guys. I taught them, and at that point they started teaching each other, and we became a room full of teachers teaching each other."

When asked what the most powerful stories they've shared are, the inmates ticked off a list of topics, from a man meeting his son for the first time in prison to the story on an immigrant



Photo by San Hearnes

Education teacher Mr. Tom Bolema and Phill E. Phillips

In addition to working on SQPR, Williams has been an inmate facilitator of numerous rehabilitation programs, including Victim Offender Education Group, Restorative Justice, Project Choice and San Quentin T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility by Utilizing Sociological Training), which assists inmates in positive restoration of themselves, their families and, ultimately, the community.

nership between the inside and the outside, so we're covering those issues that are affecting our community."

Williams said for him, the SPJ award shows the hard work inmates, staff and volunteers put into making the program happen has paid off. He said he'll proudly attend the Nov. 12 ceremony in San Francisco to accept the award on behalf of all involved.

David Jassy composes and records music for the San Quentin Prison Report.

"It was worth it, because now the community is really hearing our voices," he said. "They're really listening to us, and what we have to say has value. That goes a long way, especially when you've spent most of your life not feeling that your words have value."

SQPR program members learn not only about reporting and storytelling, but also develop technical skills that will serve them well on the outside.

All of the equipment and software is donated, often by journalists and multi-



Photo by San Hearnes

Ruben Ramirez filming an event on the Lower Yard



Photo by San Hearnes

Harold Meeks, Greg Eskridge, Sha Wallace-Stepter, Andress Yancy, Troy Williams, Brian Asey, Tommy Ross,

coming to terms with incarceration.

Williams once shared a story about being denied parole, and Greg Eskridge produced a story about getting out of gangs. But every story, they said, is powerful.

"We have a personal approach to a lot of the stories we tell, because we're all incarcerated," Eskridge said. "We know that side, and so to be able to tell an accurate story of somebody else's life story, we take that really personal."

Greg Eskridge said in addition to the valuable technical skills he's learning, being part of the San Quentin Prison Report allows him to share positive stories with his family.

Eskridge added that another benefit of being in the program is having a way to share with loved ones the journey of rehabilitation the crew is on.

"For me, it's really a proud thing to be able to call home and tell my family, 'Go on this website and hear my story.' When I left the streets 20 years ago, the only image my family had of me was in a negative way doing negative things out there in the streets," Eskridge said. "Now, 20 years later, they get to hear me doing something positive."

The San Quentin Prison Report airs on KALW, and is archived at <http://kalw.org/term/sanquentin-prison-report>.

Did you know?

San Quentin also features an inmate-produced newspaper. Read more about it at <http://www.insidecdcr.ca.gov/2014/06/extra-extra-san-quentins-inmate-journalists-share-theirtalents/>

San Quentin State Prison is California's oldest correctional institution. Construction began in 1852 on the site known as Point San Quentin, Marin County, on 20 acres of land. San Quentin was initially established to replace a prison ship known as the Waban. There are no historical proof of facts, but according to folklore, on July 14, 1852, (Bastille Day) the Waban arrived off shore with 40 to 50 convicts. San Quentin State Prison has been known as "Bastille by the Bay." Read more at [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities/Locator/SQ-Special Notes.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities/Locator/SQ-Special%20Notes.html)

See the photo gallery: <http://www.insidecdcr.ca.gov/2014/11/san-quentin-inmate-radio-show-winsjournalism-award-tells-stories-of-redemption-rehabilitation/>

View Life Through the Windshield

An 'OG's' Perspective

By Larry Stiner Jr.
Contributing Writer

Driving north on Interstate 5 heading from Los Angeles to San Quentin State Prison, the anticipation of visiting my father pushed my thoughts to a quote I had recently heard: *Live life through the windshield, not the rearview mirror.*

I found momentary comfort in those words as I focused on the joy of soon seeing him rather than on my belief that he never should have been incarcerated.

Living life through the windshield is a philosophy based upon forward thinking. It encourages one to truly live in the present while focusing strongly on the future. The idea is that very little comes from looking back, dwelling on the past or concerning oneself with things that have already taken place and cannot be changed.

Foot on the gas pedal, I cruised along a highway flanked by graffiti-covered walls and, further north, stretches of greenery while wondering what it would

mean for me to actually adopt a consistent attitude of forward thinking.

"I often needed to glance at myself in the rearview mirror to be reminded of racial profiling"

I understood the concept of working to rid myself of personal regret, grudges and negative memories that might hinder any attempt to successfully move forward. And I could clearly see the potential benefit of training my mind to focus on the opportunities in front of me as opposed to the missed opportunities behind me.

Still, there was a part of me that struggled mightily with the notion of not glancing often into the figurative rearview mirror. There were some unpleasant experiences behind me that I need-

ed to remember. There were certain occurrences that I needed to remain heated about and needed to use as teaching tools and motivation.

My rearview mirror refused to let me forget my history and the struggles along the road my family had traveled. Among many things, it reminded me of the letter my grandfather received in 1957 from the University of Houston denying him entry because he was a *Negro*.

It also reminded me of the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) that set out to "neutralize" any movement towards a righting of the injustices piled on black people in America played a large part in both my father and uncle being sentenced to life in prison in 1969. How could I only look forward through the windshield when there was still smoke rising from the wreckage behind me?

Continuing my ride toward the prison, I recalled times in Los Angeles County when flashing blue police lights lit up my rear-

view mirror for no apparent reason. I remembered pulling over and watching through that same mirror as two uniformed figures slowly approached my vehicle. The beam of a large flashlight would penetrate the car on the driver's side as one officer motioned for me to roll the window down. On the other side of the car, the second officer would stand at a distance peering inside while one hand gripped his holstered weapon.

Soon, I'd find myself standing on the sidewalk watching my vehicle being illegally searched. The phony explanation, if there was one given at all, was usually the same: I fit the description of someone who had stolen a car that happened to be the same color, make and model as the one I was driving.

Tellingly, it seemed to make no difference what part of town I found myself in, what I was wearing or whether I drove a used Chevy or a new Mercedes-Benz. It wasn't very long before I sadly concluded that I often needed to glance at my-

self in the rearview mirror to be reminded of racial profiling and the dangerous situations I could find myself in simply because I dared to be driving while black.

Seven hours into my road trip, I could finally see the notorious prison up ahead. Oddly, that picture through my windshield symbolized a loving reunion, good conversation and hope.

I began to look forward and tried to focus on the special visiting time that I saw ahead of me. Yet and still, I remained conscious of the things behind me and never lost sight of the past. I recognized those prior experiences as vital in keeping me grounded, alert and motivated to continually seek change so that others might possibly travel a smoother road.

In essence, on that ride from Los Angeles to San Quentin, I made up my mind to live life through the windshield *and* the rearview mirror.

This guest column is by the son of Watani Stiner, the regular OG Perspective columnist for the San Quentin News.

A Familiar Plight of Coping With Enduring Patience

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In *Snow Falling on Cedars*, (1995) author David Guterson portrays a bleak part of U.S. history for Japanese-Americans through intensely astute characters.

The murder trial infused into this saga loses its luster as bigotry, love, hatred and a devotion to family make *Snow Falling on Cedars* an exceptional read.

Set in the blistering dead of winter, the author constructs the tale around land ownership, losing land and being the victim of circumstances. These ideas are juxtaposed against honor, respect and doing right for powerless folks.

The story follows Hatsue Imada, who was sent to an internment camp shortly after Pearl Harbor. At the camp, Hatsue's mother discovers her relationship with her adored

childhood companion, Ishmael Chambers. While Hatsue survived the camp, the war took Ishmael to a dreadful beach landing, where he became wounded beyond comprehension. Nevertheless, at war's passing, life goes on, save for Ishmael's everyday torment — a "vague sense of waiting for Hatsue — a fantasy — to return to him."

The plight of enduring patience resonates with prison inmates, who are also distant from their loved ones. Even though we can't compare the circumstances of our incarcerations to the experiences of war heroes, the emotional turmoil that comes with separation is something that we also undergo.

As the narrative progresses, we follow Hatsue's life as she enters marriage and starts raising a family. After a period of family life, Kabuo, Hatsue's husband who is Japanese, is ar-

rested and put on trial for killing Carl Heine, a fellow angler who is German.

Through this turn of events, Guterson incorporates social commentary about the root of racism as a distinctive part of the storyline. During the closing arguments of the trial, Kabuo's defense attorney, Nels Gudmundsson, explores this issue by lamenting on how people "hate one another," and are "the victims of irrational fears."

Snow Falling on Cedars also uses universal norms about marriage and the love of one's spouse as literary devices to show flawless empathy. When Kabuo awakens from a nightmare about the war, Hatsue was there to comfort him by taking

"a piece of (Kabuo's) sorrow" and storing "it for him in her own heart," until his fears subside.

During one of Hatsue's visits at Kabuo's trial, the narrative also crafts a sentimental moment. As Kabuo is watching the snow falling outside, he asks Hatsue: "Do you remember that snow at Manzanar?" In the passage, the narrative points out that this "was not the sort of thing he would normally have said to her, these romantic words," and that "perhaps jail had taught him to release what otherwise he might conceal."

This scene portrays a moment in which Kabuo foregoes his stoic exterior and displays a rare moment of sentimental-

ity — weaving a sense of interiority into the story that allows readers to empathize with the characters.

The story also appeals to readers by using straightforward language. For example, Guterson describes how there was "no window anywhere in his basement cell, no portal through which the autumn light could come to him," luring readers into Kabuo's state of mind while he is waiting in jail. The use of direct details such as the snowfall that Kabuo "witnessed out of the corners of his eyes" and "struck him as infinitely beautiful," grabbed me, drew me into the story and made *Snow Falling on Cedars* an enjoyable read.

San Quentin's New Warden

Continued from Page 1

In 1996, Davis was transferred to Salinas Valley State Prison, where he held multiple positions including correctional lieutenant, correctional sergeant and correctional officer until 2002, when he was transferred to Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran. There, he held multiple positions, including business manager and correctional lieutenant. His career at Substance Abuse Treatment Facility lasted until 2006.

From 2006 to 2010, Davis held multiple positions at California State Prison, Corcoran, including correctional administrator, facility captain and correctional captain. In 2010 he began as chief deputy warden at Avenal State Prison, where he remained until 2012.

Davis, 45, was next appointed to Valley State Prison, Chowchilla. He served as acting warden until April 5, 2013, when he was appointed VSP warden by Gov. Jerry Brown. Davis was assigned to be acting warden of San Quentin on Dec. 1, 2014.

Bind the Testimony: Book Signing Event

"Imagine sitting in a circle of fifteen men, men dressed in sky blue shirts and navy blue pants that have 'CDCR Prisoner' stamped in bold yellow letters down one leg, men of varying ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, men whose crimes include burglary, kidnapping, and murder. In my wildest imagination, I could not have pictured myself as part of that scene, and yet I have been sitting in such a circle at San Quentin State Prison, facilitating the Christian Creative Writing Class, for over two years, loving every moment and marveling at the men's intensity. On a particular Friday morning in September of 2013, the men and I prayed and began the work of our class. After commenting on a piece of writing one of the students had shared, our conversation turned to a discussion of ways we could glorify God through our writing. James piped up:

'I think we should each write a testimony of how we came to Christ and put them all together in a book!' The fifteen men in the circle looked at one another and at me and grinned. And that was the genesis of *Bind the Testimony*." - Kathleen Jackson

Kathleen Jackson, a retired English teacher, volunteers at San Quentin State Prison as a facilitator, sponsor, and mentor for several groups, including Houses of Healing, CGA (Criminals and Gang Members Anonymous), Christian Creative Writing, VOEG (Victim Offender Education

Group), and TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training). She is a member of the Garden Chapel Drama Team and the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Warden.

Date and Time:
Jan. 24, 2015 at 1 p.m.
Location: Book Passages
51 Tamal Vista Blvd
Corte Madera, 94925



Photo by Sam Hearn

Kathleen Jackson and her
Christian Creative Writing class

Remembering Holiday Happiness

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The last month of the year brings the warmth of the holidays, the cold of winter and many celebrations.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on Monday, Dec. 8; the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on Friday, Dec. 12; Hanukkah begins at sundown on Tuesday, Dec. 16; the first day of winter on Sunday, Dec. 21; Christmas is on Thursday, Dec. 25; New Year's Eve is on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Kwanzaa is celebrated from Friday, Dec. 26, to Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015.

The World Almanac reports that December also celebrates Universal Human Rights Month, National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, National Tie Month and National Colorectal Cancer Education and Awareness Month.

Finally, there are two astrological signs in December: Sagittarius, the archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) and Capricorn, the goat (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19).

During the fall and winter seasons some celebrations are more memorable than others. Some holiday memories are so wonderful, touching or fun that if people could go back and repeat that holiday sea-

son, they wouldn't change a single thing.

"Asked On The Line" asked mainliners at San Quentin: "If you could repeat a holiday season without changing a single thing, how old would you be? Who are you with? Where are you?"

Almost every person replied with a smile.

Orlando Harris said he would return to 1974 when he was 11 years old. "My entire family was at my grandmother's house for Christmas dinner. I was with my uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and sisters. There was a feeling of being loved and we were overwhelmed with gifts and love."

Eric Boles would be with his family. He would choose to be 36 again, in Downey, Calif., and spending the holidays with his daughter and immediate family.

Juan Arballo would repeat a Christmas holiday in Mexico. "I would be 7 years old with my mother, grandmother, god-sister and my god-sister's family. I will never forget the two piñatas that we had. My mother and I had made them. It was the first piñata I had ever made."

Valeray Richardson said he would repeat a Christmas morning in Los Angeles. "I was 12 years old and I and my brothers got mini bikes for Christmas. I remember that I started mine up, right there in the living room! I got into trouble and was not allowed to use it for four weeks."

Tommy Ross said he would relive a Thanksgiving holiday. "I was 8 years old and I was with my whole family. I remember I had a cousin who



File Photo

Miniature Christmas tree inside the Education building

had come for Thanksgiving. She was a political activist -- a celebrated activist -- and I thought she was very interesting."

Michael Tyler would also relive a Thanksgiving holiday. "It would have to be Thanksgiving at my grandma's house. I was 8 years old. I was special to my grandmother and she spoiled me with everything. I had pies and a space at the table just for me. I still love to eat."

Philip Senegal would relive a Christmas holiday season. "The year would be 1988 between Christmas and New Year's Day. I was 21 years of age. At that time, I was with Tammy, my baby mama. I would be at home with her, making love. It was during this time that our daughter, Teshi, was conceived."

Jesus Flores said that he would go back to his grandparents' house when he was 10 years old and spend the Christmas holiday with his entire family. He remembers

getting lots of Christmas gifts.

Tyrone Allen would not go back in time. He would prefer to predict a nice holiday in the future. "In 2016, I will have Thanksgiving dinner with my grandchildren and all of my adult children in my own home. I will have the fireplace burning, eggnog on ice, and we would be sharing stories," said Allen.

Syden Hong said that he would be 10 years old again. He would be with his mom, sister, little brother and his dad. "We would be in Salt Lake City, Utah, when we decorated the house with Christmas lights."

David Le said that he would be 11 years old in 1996. He remembers that he was in the fifth grade. "I was with my brother, walking down the aisle at Walgreen's in Oakland near Lake Merritt, next to Lucky's. I told him, 'I want that game,' pointing at a Monopoly board game. He bought it for me and said, 'This is your Christmas present.'"



Photo by Sam Hearn

Syden Hong and Chhem Phy in the Catholic Chapel

This Superman Zooms Into a World of Modern Problems



MOVIE REVIEW



By San Quentin Reviews

What separates Director Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel* from previous Superman movies is an attention to realistic detail. In this latest version, plenty of people look into the sky and see not a bird or a plane, but an alien threat to national security.

Viewers get a fresh take on Kryptonite that makes it a more plausible Achilles heel, and motivations rooted in values that prevail in contemporary society provide depth to the movie's villain.

Man of Steel is a character-driven "origins story" and an action movie. Therein lies its challenge, for a movie that tries to be two different things runs the risk of being nothing at all. Historically, most good Superman stories don't center on Superman kicking butt because he is so powerful and few villains pose a direct threat to him. The most compelling Superman stories focus on his battles with himself, particularly his moral



choices.

When directors portray Superman's moral life poorly, he comes off as a Boy Scout with oversimplified answers to complex questions. That kind of Superman tends to alienate prisoners who dislike pat

portrayals like the black-and-white caricatures of criminals in the media.

Snyder dramatizes Superman's moral choices well. In one scene, a trucker pushes Superman (Henry Cavill), pours beer on him and pelts

him in the head with a can. Clark does the right thing and walks away, but after he leaves the bar, he vents his anger at the trucker in a way that not only gives the audience a laugh, it assures viewers that Clark is just a man.

An inspiring message is at the heart of Clark's expression of anger: If the legend can be angry or afraid like us, then we can be heroic and responsible like the legend.

Or not.

"I think a lot of movies are someone's attempt to indoctrinate us," says Rahsaan Thomas as when S.Q. Reviews assembles to discuss *Man of Steel*.

"Let's run with that," Emile DeWeaver says. "What's the propaganda in *Man of Steel*?"

"It sells Midwest values," Juan Meza says. He ticks points off by tapping his fingers. "Be content to work very hard for very little. Be submissive to authority even if you're bulletproof. You know, all the things that people with money and power never are, but need us to be."

Sitting on the edge of his seat, Meza drops his hands, smiles, and seems on the verge of taking a bow.

Thomas says, "The movie's

propaganda is that America is the best country in the world, and anybody that doesn't agree gets beat down. Superman chose humans over his own people."

Thomas explains that he believes the humans in *Man of Steel* represent America, and choosing humans represent choosing the American way.

"I'm a pretty radical guy, so I'm going to say that the humans represented humanity," Meza says. "Superman chose humanity and human ideals over his people."

Thomas is from Brooklyn, and the smirk on Meza's face brings out Thomas' native lingo. "But who's saying what those ideals are, son? The American media. Truth, justice and the American way. He's a savior figure whose costume is red and blue. His skin is white — he's the American Ideal flying in to save the day."

The 6-year-olds in us give *Man of Steel* three out of four dinner cookies for the shockwaves, exploding glass and a super-hot Kryptonian lieutenant who throws Superman through a diner. The adults in us rate the movie two and a half cookies.

CDCR Ups Its War Against Illegal Cell Phones

'Contraband Cell Phone Usage Is a Problem That CDCR Takes Very Seriously'

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Illegal cell phones are again on the rise in California prisons, state officials report.

"Contraband cell phone usage is a problem that CDCR takes very seriously," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation posted on the CDCR website. "Cell phone use by inmates poses a security risk by circumventing the monitoring processes in prison."

Since 2006, the number of cell phones confiscated from inmates has increased, reaching a peak of 15,000 in 2011. The following year, the numbers dipped by 3,200 but have been on the rise ever since, according to CDCR statistics.

"In response to this problem, CDCR established a Warden's Advisory Group (WAG) on Cell Phone Interdiction. WAG is charged with examining cell phone interdiction and related technologies," the department reported.

In the first three months of 2014, there were 2,809 contraband cell phones confiscated from inmates in the prison system, CDCR reported.

CDCR reported that in 2011 it ran tests on Managed Access Systems (MAS) technology that interrupts contraband cell phone signals at two of its prisons. The CDCR reported it plans to have MAS installed "at all institutions by 2015."

"Currently, 18 CDCR prisons have Managed Access System technology installed

and in use," said Terry Thornton, CDCR deputy press secretary. "CDCR is not disclosing which prisons are using MAS technology for safety and security reasons."

In March, the CDCR reported 40 illegal cell phones were confiscated at Pleasant Valley State Prison, along with drugs, after inmates inundated local law enforcement's 911 emergency system with more than 400 calls. Officials said it was an attempt to bypass the current Managed Access System.

According to a 2012 KCRA television news report, Avenal State Prison was the first prison to install managed access.

With MAS, instead of receiving a dial tone, inmates are supposed to receive this pre-recorded message: "The cellular device that you are using at Avenal State Prison has been identified as contraband. It is illegal to possess."

KCRA reported that Avenal prison staff using authorized cell phones have their numbers programmed into MAS to work. "All other cell phones inside the prison will be blocked."

However, "blocking is not an accurate description, as blocking cellular signals is illegal. Managed access prevents the signal from unauthorized cell phones from accessing the carrier's network," said Deputy Press Secretary Terry Thornton, CDCR Press Office. <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Contraband-Cell-Phones/managed-access.html>.

The CDCR website defines managed access as a system that "deploys a secure cellular umbrella over a specified area" within a prison facil-

ity. MAS will either permit or deny access from wireless transmissions in that area.

"The Managed Access System technology of today is not mature enough for immediate large-scale deployments"

Thornton said, "CDCR is currently in Phase I" of MAS implementation. "The deployment schedule for Phase II sites has not been completed at this time, but CDCR expects to take 18 months to complete once work begins."

In 2012, the California Council on Science and Technology released a 72-page report that said in part that "MAS technology (at that time was) not yet proven for prison environments."

"The Managed Access System technology of today is not mature enough for immediate large-scale deployments, such as that proposed by CDCR at California's 33 state prisons," CCST reported. California has 34 prisons; however, at the time the report was written, 33 was correct.

"A detailed site survey and radio frequency study will need to be completed at each facility site where managed access would be deployed to ensure that no adverse impacts would be realized" on the public, the CDCR reported.

A HIGHER RISK OF DEATH

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Former prisoners are at high risk of death after release, especially during the first two weeks of freedom, a research paper concludes.

"Interventions are necessary to reduce the risk of death after release from prison," a group of doctors said in a January 2007 manuscript published by the National Institutes of Health.

The first two weeks indicate the risk of death is 12.7 times higher for ex-inmates than it is for other state residents.

The stress of reentering society has been proven as enormous and, in fact, more overwhelming a task than being in prison, the paper concluded, based on data on Washington state prison releases.

Obtaining housing, jobs, transportation, healthcare, acclimating and re-acquainting into the family structure for most former inmates can prove to be a living nightmare.

At the end of 2004, more

than 3 percent of adults in the U.S. were in jail, on probation or parole. High mortality rates have also been noted in European and Australian studies concerning former inmates with histories of drug abuse.

"Interventions are necessary to reduce the risk of death after release from prison"

Women have a much higher rate of death than men do after release from incarceration. Cocaine was the largest contributing factor for overdoses, then heroin, meth and alcohol. The second leading cause of death overall was cardiovascular disease. Homicide (mostly from firearms) came in third. Suicide, cancer and motor vehicles were also important contributors in this

survey.

Death from violence, unintentional injury and a lapse in treatment of chronic conditions are also major factors for former inmates after release.

The transition from prison to community intervention programs including halfway houses, work release, drug treatment, education on overdoses and preventive care to modify cardiac stress could help lower these risk factors.

Improving access to intensive medical and mental health care case management after releasing inmates could also benefit society by increasing public safety and reducing recidivism in the long term, the paper said.

The Washington state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Death Index and the Online Data for Epidemiological Research systems of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were used to produce these comparisons of released inmates between July 1999 and December 2003.

'Overcrowding Mandate Is No Issue in Parole Grants'

'The Prison Population Has No Bearing on the Governor's Decision'

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

The rise in California life prisoners' parole grants has had nothing to do with the federal court mandate to reduce overcrowding in California's prisons, said Gov.

Jerry Brown's office.

"The prison population has no bearing on the governor's decision to reverse or not act on a parole grant," said Evan Westrup, a spokesperson for Brown.

"Authorities say the higher numbers are primarily

the result of a state Supreme Court decision in 2008 that set a new legal standard for the Board of Parole Hearings and the Governor's Office to use when determining who is suitable for parole," reported the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

Until the early 2000s, the prospects were slim for prisoners sentenced to life with the possibility of parole in California ever to walk out of prison. According to the *California Lifer Newsletter*, Gov. Gray Davis paroled only eight life prisoners during his administration from 1999 to 2003.

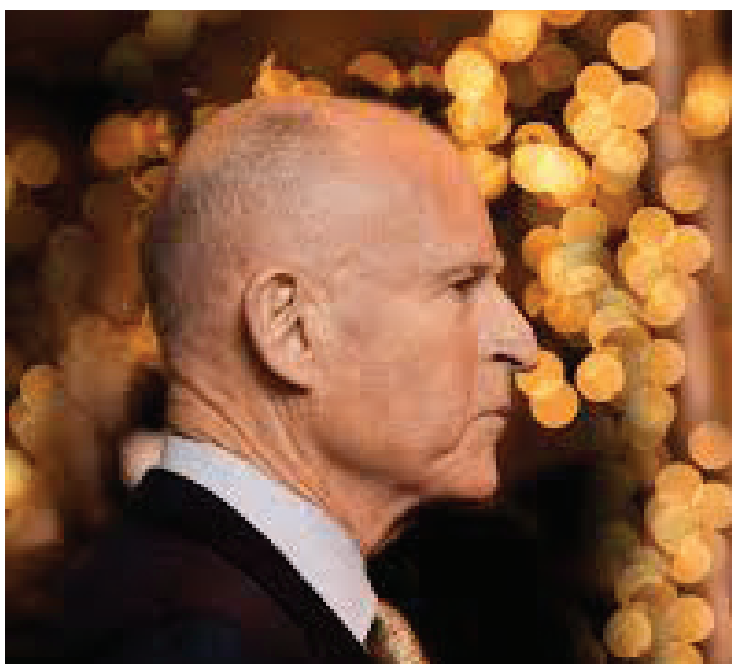
But things have changed. In 2008, the state Supreme Court

decided that parole could not be denied simply because the life prisoner's crime was "heinous, atrocious or cruel." The denial must be based on whether the prisoner remains a danger to public safety if released.

In 2009, a federal three-judge court decided that overcrowding in California's prisons was the primary cause for the state's failure to provide adequate medical care to its prisoners. It ordered a cap on the state prison population of 137.5 percent of design capacity and required Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to submit plans to reduce overcrowding in the state prisons.

Since then the numbers of lifer prisoners paroled have steadily increased, from 221 in 2009 to 596 in 2013, according to the *San Diego Union Tribune*. This year, more than 280 life prisoners were paroled from prison as of June 30.

State law bars the parole board from taking prison overcrowding into account when making its decisions. However, there may be a perception that the issues are related because of the state's efforts to comply with the federal court order, said Jennifer Shaffer, executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings.



File Photo

California Governor Jerry Brown

Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

1. Longview, Wash. — A court reversed Thomas Kennedy’s 2001 conviction for raping his 11-year-old daughter after she later testified that the story was fabricated, *The Associated Press* reports. Under the state’s Wrongful Conviction Compensation Act, Kennedy was paid \$519,973 for the 11 years he served in prison. He was also compensated for the year he had to register as a sex offender and his attorney’s fees.

2. Sacramento — New figures from the California Department of Justice show that Californians today are less likely to be victims of violent crimes than they were a few years – and even decades – ago, the *Sacramento Bee* reports. In 2013, the murder rate was 4.6 murders for every 100,000 state residents, down 8 percent from 2012 and 64 percent since 1993.

3. Sierra Nevada — Forestry officials have opened an inquiry into the near-fatal experience of 12 firefighters during a fire in the Sierra Nevada in September, reports *Reuters*. The group of firefighters, which included 10 prisoner-firefighters, was almost entirely engulfed in a wall of flames until a helicopter found them and guided them to safety. The incident is now under review by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Cal Fire.

4. Arizona — The state must improve general health and mental health treatment for about 30,000 inmates, according to the terms of a proposed settlement for a 2012 class action lawsuit brought by prison rights groups. According to *The Arizona Republic*, the settlement would reduce the time mentally ill inmates can be placed in solitary confinement as well as restrict



the use of pepper spray to control prisoners. Under the proposed settlement, the state would not admit any wrongdoing.

5. Huntsville, Texas — Former death row inmate Manuel Velez was released from prison in September after his death sentence was thrown out in 2012 by an appeals court, reports *The Associated Press*. His conviction was reversed because of a faulty testimony at Velez’s 2008 trial for the death of his girlfriend’s young son. Velez, whose attorney insisted he is innocent, was released after pleading no contest to a lesser charge of injury to a child.

6. San Antonio — The highest criminal appeals court in Texas upheld a lower court’s decision

to throw out the murder conviction of Vanessa Cameron, the daughter of a San Antonio police sergeant. Cameron was found guilty in 2012 of orchestrating the kidnapping and murder of her child’s father, 26-year-old Samuel Allen Johnson Jr. The lower Court of Appeals granted Cameron a new trial last year, saying that her “constitutional right to a public jury trial was violated” because her supporters could not observe jury selection, according to the *San Antonio Express-News*.

7. Woodbine, Ga. — The Camden County sheriff has found a way to keep his jail’s GED courses funded and running despite recent budget cuts to the

program. Sheriff Jim Proctor, who believes that such courses help reduce recidivism rates in the county, was able to use profits from the jail’s commissary to provide funds for the GED classes. Proctor said that he could not think of a better place to put the money, according to the *Florida Times Union*.

8. Raleigh, N.C. — An autopsy report on Anthony Michael Kerr, an inmate who died after being held in solitary confinement at Alexander Correctional Institution, determined that he died of severe dehydration, according to *The Associated Press*. Kerr, who was diagnosed with severe mental illness, was found unresponsive March 12 in a van

while being transferred from Alexander Correctional Institution to Central Prison in Raleigh. The state Department of Public Safety later fired a captain and four nurses. A fifth nurse and staff psychologist later resigned.

9. Fort Lauderdale, Fl. — The family of Aleshia Napier settled a lawsuit for \$500,000 over Napier’s death with the Florida Department of Corrections and the private companies contracted to provide medical and mental health services at the prison. Napier, then 18, hanged herself with a bed sheet in 2006 while placed in solitary confinement at Broward Correctional Institution. Prior to her death, Napier was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and clinical depression with psychotic features, according to *The Root*.

10. Bridgewater, Mass. — State prison officials fired three correctional officers following an internal investigation into an inmate’s death in 2009. The investigation looked into the death of 23-year-old Joshua Messier, who suffered a heart attack at Bridgewater State Hospital after guards strapped him to a small bed at the prison for inmates who are mentally ill. According to the *Boston Globe*, a department spokesman said hearings conducted over the summer showed that the correctional officers’ actions violated the department’s policies.

11. Washington — The District of Columbia decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana in October, reports *The Associated Press*. A person found carrying less than 10 grams of marijuana will now receive a \$100 fine for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third offense.

We Can Use Your Help

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The following groups and individuals have already made many contributions and the San Quentin News would like to thank you all and wish you a very Happy New Year and Season Greetings with many more to come.

FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

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*Have made more than one donation



Photo by P. Jo

TREASURE ISLAND OVERLOOK

*‘Message
From
Around The
World’*

*San Quentin
News Adviser
Joan Lisetor,
while on
vacation
in Hawaii,
continues her
passion for
the paper.*



File Photo

Snippets

Janism is a religion of ancient India. They teach people that the way to personal freedom and a life of happiness is to live harmlessness and renunciation.

On the lips? Philematology is the scientific term for the name kissing.

Longest English word according to the Oxford English dictionary is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokononiosis.

Love at first sight helped President Obama solidify his relationship with his now wife Michelle.

You may find it hard to believe that marijuana was one of the crops that grew on George Washington’s farm.

Sudoku Corner

	5		6		2			7
8				4	7		6	1
			3					8
	7						4	
			2	9	4			
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6					9			
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				2		6	4	
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7								
	9	6	4	1		3		
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	3	1		6				

Last Issue’s
Sudoku Solution

2	5	9	8	3	7	4	1	6
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4	6	3	2	1	5	8	9	7
9	7	6	5	4	3	2	8	1
3	4	2	1	8	9	6	7	5
1	8	5	6	7	2	9	4	3
5	9	1	7	2	8	3	6	4
6	3	4	9	5	1	7	2	8
8	2	7	3	6	4	1	5	9

4	3	1	9	7	5	8	2	6
5	8	9	6	2	1	4	7	3
2	7	6	4	3	8	1	5	9
3	9	2	8	6	4	7	1	5
1	5	4	7	9	3	6	8	2
7	6	8	1	5	2	3	9	4
8	2	7	5	4	6	9	3	1
9	4	3	2	1	7	5	6	8
6	1	5	3	8	9	2	4	7

All-Madden Slams The Chosen, 44-18

SPORTS

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Four sacks and three interceptions propelled the San Quentin All-Madden flag football team to a 44-18 win over The Chosen visitors.

All-Madden had been waiting to play an outside team all season and made the most of the chance that finally happened after many mishaps.

All-Madden was sensational on both sides of the ball. To close the game, All-Madden quarterback Antonio "Boobie" Cavitt threw a screen pass to running back Cleo Cloman for a five-yard walk-in touchdown, bringing the score to 43-18.

The one-point conversion

came at the hands of wide receiver John Windham. He made a leaping one-hand catch in the back of the end zone that was out of this world.

"I had fun. I tested the limits coming off of surgery and being able to go to that upper room to get that ball," said Windham.

Tyson Amir of The Chosen commented, "It was great fellowship; they played well organized and disciplined. We also look forward to playing them again."

Windham wasn't the only player with sure hands. The All-Madden defense intercepted The Chosen quarterback Dante Perez three times and all resulted in rushing touchdowns.

The first one came off the chest of The Chosen wide receiver Andre Jackson into the hands of Royce Rose in the first

half. Cloman made a 10-yard run for a touchdown, making the score 18-0.

The second half started with back-to-back interceptions. Donald "Texas" Walker Jr. grabbed one out of the air and ran it back 30 yards before being stopped. Cavitt followed with a 25-yard touchdown run, making the score 30-12.

Cloman tagged on another interception with a one-hand snatch while going out of bounds, giving All-Madden the final pick of the game.

"This is a no-flight zone," said Cloman.

Windham converted the interception into a touchdown with a three-yard run, for a 36-12 lead.

"We wanted to get physical off the top. We have a run-then-pass quarterback," said All-Madden coach Chris



Photo by Lt. Robinson

All-Madden playing defense against The Chosen

Markham. "All the things we've been practicing, we were able to execute to the fullest. Our defensive line — Kevin Carr, D. Zayd Nichol, Anthony Sorrell and Mario Washington — kept pressure on their QB all game."

The All-Madden defensives line's pressure sacked Perez four times. Nichols got him twice, Sorrell once and Washington once.

The All-Madden offensive line kept its QB pretty well protected, only giving up one sack by De Phil Volta of The Chosen.

"We came to handle business and we did that," said All-Madden center Andre "Escalade" Black.

Offensive tackle Anthony Redwood of All-Madden added, "It was a battle; the other team brought it."

The Chosen showed major promise in the first half, although coming up short. They scored two touchdowns in the final two minutes of the first half. Perez found Jackson for a 20-yard pass over the hands of

Walker for a TD.

With only 21 seconds left in the half, Perez handed the ball off to the speedy Amir, who slashed his way 10 yards into the end zone, closing the scoring gap, 18-12.

Unfortunately for The Chosen, there were still 13 seconds left on the clock. All-Madden used two plays and a timeout to go 60 yards, which ended with a deep crossing pass to Kent Craig for a TD and 24-12 lead.

The Chosen didn't score again until there were four minutes left in the second half. Amir caught a 15-yard pass in the center of the end zone, making the score 37-18.

"The victory is really playing these guys," said Perez.

Jackson added, "It's a ministry thing; we just don't come to play basketball and football."

The two teams came together to form one big huddle, and The Chosen coach Wayne "Preacher" Jackson ended with a prayer. "When God sees your faith, things happen," Jackson said.

Baseball Players Awarded

By Michael Panella
Journalism Guild Writer

Athletic Achievement Awards were presented to eight outstanding members of San Quentin's 2014 baseball teams. They are:

From the S.Q. Giants: Jeff Dumont/Jose Sandoval (Most Valuable Player), Anthony Sorrell (Most Improved Player), Michael Panella (Gold Glove).

From the S.Q. Athletics: Anthony Denard (Most Valuable Player), Royce Rose (Most Improved Player), Bilal Coleman (Gold Glove), Isaiah "The General" Thompson-Bonilla (A's Pitcher of the Year).

The 2014 San Quentin Rehabilitation Baseball Program had a memorable season of competition, plus a few big names in the world of professional sports were drawn to the Field of Dreams.

On a bright Saturday morning the S.Q. Giants were locked in the battle of a one-run game when the atmosphere became electric. The 49ers head coach, Jim Harbaugh, appeared with his 2014 rookie draft class.

"I see you've got runners on, and it's a close game," said Harbaugh as he walked up to the Giants dugout. Chris Deragon had just hit a double, moving Jose Sandoval to third. Harbaugh and the rookies looked on as Jeff "Dewey" Dumont stepped into the



Photo by Sam Hearn

Giant Co-MVPs Jose Sandoval and Jeff Dumont

batters box and crushed a fastball for a three-run homer that blew the game open. Harbaugh gave a fist-pump and cheered as the Giants dugout erupted.

On another occasion Rugger Ardizoia, the oldest living New York Yankee player, watched a S.Q. Giants versus A's game, signed some autographs and threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Ardizoia, 94, is a personal friend of the S.Q. A's head coach, Steve Reichardt.

"It's an honor to have a living legend like Rugger come in to see our program," said Reichardt.

The Giants and Athletics signed a bat that was presented to Ardizoia by both teams.

World Series pitcher and Red Sox Hall of Famer Bill "Spaceman" Lee is a regular at The Q. He pitched a couple of innings for the San Rafael Pacifics, a

minor league team that came in to play the S.Q. All-Stars. He also came in with a local men's league team, the Rockies.

A documentary film crew, Heist Media, came in to film the Giants practice and games and interviewed players from both S.Q. teams.

The 2014 season saw an influx of ex-pro and minor league caliber pitchers brought in to face off against the notorious Bad Boys of Summer. The S.Q. baseball program is known for fielding teams that play at a high level.

"The teams are comprised of first-rate ballplayers," said Stewart Sallo of the visiting Dodger Town team. He added that they play "semi-pro quality baseball."

Giants coach Frankie Smith said, "It's been a pure pleasure to coach this team, I enjoyed watching new players develop and it gives me personal satisfaction to share baseball knowledge with them."

"I always have mixed emotions about the last game of the season, but I'm glad we made it through without any injuries," said Smith.

Athletics coach John "Yahya" Parratt said, "Coaching this year was about getting these guys to come together and recognize their weaknesses, faults and make adjustments."

The 2014 season also welcomed a new visiting team to the schedule, the Santa Barbara Riptide. They are the fourth Southern California team to come to The Q.



Photo by Sam Hearn

A's most improved player Royce Rose, MVP Anthony Denard and Cleo Cloman

N.Y. Times Video Features S.Q. Baseball Program

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

An up-close video of San Quentin baseball players in action was posted on the *The New York Times* website recently.

The video titled *San Quentin's Giants* was beautifully filmed by the Heist Media film crew and edited and directed by Clayton Worfolk. It highlights baseball's effect on the rehabilitation efforts of incarcerated players.

"When I'm on that field, I'm not locked up. This is home field like no other," said Anthony Sorrell, who played for the S.Q. Giants before paroling recently.

The video captures the Lower Yard's Field of Dreams, a tier in North Block and the chow hall as the background of scenes featuring S.Q. Giants players Jeff "Dewey" Dumont, Chris Deragon, Frankie Smith, Anthony Sorrell and Jose Sandoval.

S.Q. A's players Royce Rose, Cleo Cloman and Anthony Denard are shown strolling to the field before a game. A's catcher John Windham was their featured speaker. A's coach John "Yahya" Parratt was also shown in his cell, adjusting the many baseball card photos of S.Q. players on his wall.

Dumont's fastball is shown in slow motion while he is heard

describing a love for baseball. Deragon and Sorrell are pictured at bat and speaking of baseball's positive effects.

"Baseball is a game of patience; you fail more than you succeed," said Sorrell. "It's not a time to get down on yourself ... you have to think about what can I change? What can I fix? Then you have to be patient, just like life, just like doing time."

"I owe a debt. Eric was murdered for nothing," said Deragon, expressing remorse for his crime. He joined the team because he "wanted to make changes. I wanted to make my life about more than prison."

"Baseball is a way for you to learn how to live in prison, to maybe find camaraderie and diversity," Smith said. "You can throw away color, whatever gangs you were in. When you're on this field, you're a team."

Baseball is like "a university, a place to learn and grow. To me, it's school -- at school we play ball," said Windham with a smile.

"If it wasn't for sports, who knows what I'd be going through right now," said Sorrell.

"It was emotional," said Smith after seeing the video. "It showed the genuine and humane side of us."

Glimpse of Student-Athletes at the Q

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

Athletics, education and self-help programs are major factors on changing lives in San Quentin State Prison. Here are some of the people who found rehabilitation behind the walls:

Thaddeus Fleeton, 49. 2nd-degree murder, serving a 15-life sentence. SQN: What has it been like playing for the S.Q. Kings these past two seasons?

It's been a great experience -- coming across paths with people from the street; the competitive spirit, the positive vibes and the enlightening conversations.

SQN: How long have you been involved in sports overall?

I started boxing at the age of 8 through 20; I picked up football at 12, and then basketball at 15.

SQN: Are you involved with any self-help groups?

Anger Management, AA/NA and Justice for the People. In addition, while I was at Salinas Valley Level IV, I took part in meditation. Breaking Barriers (Old Folsom '89) ... Walking a Path -- juveniles (Mule Creek '95-96)

SQN: What is the difference between the Thaddeus that first came into the system and the Thaddeus giving SQN this interview?

The "Thad" that came in was violent. That Thad had been to every Ad-Seg in every prison, and it was behind violence; I was reactionary; the Thad at The Q is a thinker, a positive individual; a people person, father, brother, son and uncle. I finally came to grips with my crime and owning up to it.

SQN: "Rehabilitated." What does this word mean to you?

You have to look yourself in the mirror and own up to your responsibilities and obligations.

SQN: What would you say to that young person who'll read

this, and they are thinking that coming to prison is a "rite of passage?"

A young person thinking about this path ... you won't hug ya moms, can't go outside when you want ... you'll have to follow orders -- from authority, whether you want to or not.

Trevor Bird, 34. Convicted of 1st-degree murder, sentenced to 26 to life. SQN: How long have you been here at San Quentin?

Seventeen months.

SQN: What sports have you played at The Q?

I played two seasons with All-Madden flag football; in baseball, one full season with the Giants, starting at second base. I play tennis, soccer, as well as the Intramural League Basketball.

SQN: What self-help groups have you taken since your arrival?

Kid Cat, Last Mile, G.R.I.P. (Guiding Rage into Power); through R.E.A.C.H., I became a tutor for VEP, and GED prep. I'm also in the machine shop.



Photo by Ralpheale Casales

Thaddeus Fleeton fighting through Bittermen boxout

SQN: Have you taken any college courses?

I completed Principles in Accounting toward my bachelor's in Adam's State in Colorado. I have previously earned an A.A. through Coastline Community College.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Christopher Deragon

SQN: What does it mean to you to be a student athlete?

The athletics keep my body fit. The academics keep the mind sharp. That's how I can complete myself within these walls -- sharp mind, fit body.

SQN: What is it about The Q that has allowed you to key in on the projects that you're involved in?

This is the first prison that I've been to that's linked to the greater metropolitan area. These groups offer connections to the community. The inmate community is so mature and like-minded that it makes everything we do so much more accepting than any place I've been. This entire environment is focused toward the person, not the skin tone.

Christopher Deragon, 35. Convicted of 1st-degree murder, 26 to life. SQN: How long have you been at the Q?

Almost five years.

SQN: The Chris that arrived here over four years ago was...?

Still somebody caught up in the prison mentality.

SQN: Did sports play a part in changing that?

Yeah, it did. This is the first prison I played interracial sports. When I first I arrived, I wasn't going to play because it was integrated. However, I came down to the yard every day and watched the practice, and finally my cellie told me, "Just play

baseball, who cares?" He was right. I asked myself, "Who cares? If I don't, who else will?"

SQN: What self-help groups are you involved in?

Impact, Trust, VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group), Real Choices, Alliance for Change; I'm currently the co-leader for the Education Department. I'm in charge of all the inside and outside facilitators, and making sure that the curriculum is run correctly.

SQN: What does it feel like to be a student-athlete?

It's a challenge because you have to manage your schedule at the Q. I have a full-time job, plus I out-count from three to five. I have Real Choices, which is youth diversion. Therefore, I get kids to focus on. Trying to find time to play baseball is difficult, but being able to break those barriers to play with someone without looking at the color of their skin is powerful in this prison environment. As an athlete, it opens the rest of my life to see people the same way.

Marvin Cosby, 39. Convicted of three attempted first-degree murders, three life terms, plus 24 years. SQN: What sports have you played since being here at SQ?

I'm an original All-Madden flag football player, for two seasons; I played with the S.Q. Warriors, three seasons; Intramural League, two seasons.

SQN: What self-help groups have you taken part in?

CGA (Criminals and Gangsters Anonymous) and AA/NA.

SQN: So, being at The Q is unique in the area of groups.

Well, the variety of groups helps you in many ways. They teach how to take the road to become a man.

SQN: You had a health issue that took you off the court; how do you teach the game to the players on the current Warriors team?

It's dealing with adversity. Sometimes you have to turn a

negative into a positive; it's not all about the offense, it's the defensive side of the game, staying focused, but most importantly, having fun. If you play hard, you can get good results.

SQN: How does that transfer over into life skills?

Well, it's a team sport. You have to learn to coexist with other people. Sometimes, teammates are hard to get along with. Playing basketball teaches you how to acquire that team mentality.

Andrew Vance, 37; 2nd-degree murder -- 15 to life. SQN: How long have you been involved in sports in general?

Since I was 7 years old -- started with soccer at 7 ... Little League at 10; no football, but playing basketball my whole term, since High Desert, 2000.

SQN: What programs have you been involved with since your arrival at The Q?

Anger Management with Dr. Richmond, AA, ARC -- Addiction Recovery Counseling, GRIP alumni, and a facilitator for GRIP

SQN: Which group has had the most profound impact on you as a person?

GRIP and ARC, one for substance abuse and the other for anger, finding your authentic self.

SQN: You also play the guitar.

Yes, since the age of 12.

SQN: Do you find any therapeutic value in music overall?

Yes I do. Playing guitar can be mood-altering -- soothing to an angry state, soothing to someone with heartbreak -- very inspiring. It can make you feel like you achieved goals along the way.

SQN: Tell the people what it means to be, in your mind, "rehabilitated."

CDCR didn't rehabilitate me; I had to start with myself. What The Q did was offer the opportunity to take it upon myself to find the avenues of rehabilitation.

Vice Films Inside Tennis Team

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

A view of tennis inside San Quentin was documented by Vice Media, featuring prisoners and outside tennis specialists.

The stated purpose was to learn about the socialization of sports.

"What makes an individual pick a certain sport?" asked Dan Bradley, head producer of Vice Sports.

"Why play tennis? What is it that is special for them?" Vice host Kaj Larsen asked the players in San Quentin. "Most never played growing up."

Vice found the Inside Tennis Team enthusiastically playing against 6.0-4.5 ranked guests Matthew Berry, Charlie Cutler, Kent and Patti Anderson, Alex Rosinski and Leslie Lava.

"I'm trying to teach (Mark) Jordan the kick serve. He picked up the concept fast," said Berry, a 6.0-ranked pro who now teaches tennis. Berry used to play for the University of San Francisco

and on the Men's Open circuit.

"It means the world that these pros come in here. It's such a blessing because all you do is learn," said Jordan. "A kick serve is when you serve with a bounce, high and away from you."

"It has a lot of spin. It's like the curve ball of tennis," added Berry.

Cutler helped Paul Alleyne with his serve and on backhand grips.

"Paul is pretty clean," said Cutler. "It seems like he's worked hard at it."

Here are answers to questions posed by Vice:

"After eight years in prison, I picked up the racket. I started playing because I was tired of guys arguing all the time on the basketball courts," said Orlando Harris, head coach of the S.Q. Kings basketball team.

"I started in the Army Officers Club to meet a girl," said Paul Oliver. "It's relaxing. It takes away a lot of stress. A little green ball acts like a heavy bag."

Before tennis, Alleyne played racket and volleyball.

"Fellow prisoner Bernard Wright took me under his wing and taught me," said Alleyne. "I got hooked. It's a very nuanced sport; I like the challenge of learning all the different strokes."

Guest Berry learned how to play using the tennis courts of Pollsmoor prison in South Africa, when the inmates weren't present. They were the closest tennis courts to his home.

"Never played with them -- just used their courts," said Berry, who said he enjoys coming into the Q. to play with inmates.

"I coach for a living and can see you guys really love the game. Kids be like, 'Oh, I'm tired, coach.' It's nice to see the appreciation," said Berry.

"My dad played, so I grew up on the court," said Cutler. "As soon as I could walk, I was hitting balloons."

"My sport was golf, then I met Kent in college and took lessons from him," said Patti Ander-



Photo by Lt. Robinson

Inside Tennis Team at work

son. She traded dinner for the lessons. He expected roast beef and mashed potatoes, and got yogurt and tuna fish, but stayed for dinner anyway. Now they are married.

"I believe in the tennis program and enjoy interaction with the guys," Lava said.

"Overall, athlete programs with community volunteers is a good thing," added Patti Anderson. "Tennis teaches respect, communication and acceptance."

"You are all human beings.

It's nice to get a chance to get to know you guys and be a help," added her husband. "It's giving back to the San Quentin community."

The day ended with inmate Rafael Calix speaking to the volunteers with the S.Q. team circled around.

"We want to thank you for coming in and giving us an opportunity to (feel like we're on) parole in the middle of San Quentin," said Calix. "Everyone say 'tennis' on three. One, two, three ... TENNIS!"

Warriors Lose Season Finale at Buzzer

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Juston Willis drained a three at the buzzer for the comeback, 84-82, Green Team victory in the season finale against the San Quentin Warriors.

“#\$(!&)*” and other unprintable expletives, said Warriors coach Daniel Wright about the loss.

“It’s a joyous feeling to hit that shot. You can’t script anything like that to happen,” said Willis. “It’s another catalyst for coming back next season.”

San Quentin basketball season ended with the Nov. 15 game and resumes in March.

The game was literally a battle, said Todd Hahs. He showed off six wounds after the game.

The almost 7-foot center scored seven of his 28 points from the free-throw line.

Hahs played pro in Portugal and is now a minister. Hahs has ministered to prisoners in South



Maurice Hanks guarded by Tyree McCary

America along with the trans-formourworld.org website.

The Warriors led from the jump, up 22-17 at the end of the first quarter and 49-42 at the end of the second. Maurice Hanks

led the early charge for the Warriors going hard in what was his last game as a Warrior because he is scheduled to parole before next season.

“When you’re out, you’re off the team. We’ll miss you but don’t ever come back to play in here,” said Green Team sponsor Bill Epling. “I remember when Maurice was an angry young fella. Now he’s somebody who a father wouldn’t mind dating his daughter ... I didn’t say my daughter,” Epling joked.

Hanks finished his Warriors career with a double double, 21 points and 10 boards.

In the fourth quarter, Green Team was up 81-78 with 53 sec-

onds left when Harry “ATL” Smith stole the ball and laid it up for the Warriors.

On the Green Team possession, Hahs decided to try to put a “nail in the coffin” of the Warriors, but missed the short jumper, which Alias Jones rebounded and launched down court. Allan McIntosh finished the play with a layup, giving the Warriors an 82-81 lead with 25 seconds left.

In the last possession, Kyle Fowler took control, slowing the game down for a last-second shot. As the Warriors focused on him and Hahs, nobody guarded Willis, who was wide open at the three-point line, where he received the dish and released his shot with one second left. The ball swished through the net as time expired and the crowd erupted in excitement.

Willis finished with 14 points, two blocks and a steal. Fowler added 12 points and Tyree McCary scored 12 with 11 boards for the Green Team.

McIntosh finished with 26 points, seven rebounds, two steals and one assist.

The game was characteristic of Warriors-Green Team games. Many went down to the wire or into overtime and could have been won by either team. However, the Green Team holds the edge at 10-5 for this season. The Warriors still emerged with a winning 14-12 record overall. They only lost two games to their other rivals, Imago Dei and the Outsiders, and scored big wins over the Golden State Warriors and Pacific Union College.

“It’s been a great season,” said Christian Sports Ministry sponsor Don Smith. “We had the most events this year, 25 basketball games, six softball and one flag-football. Next year I want to add soccer and more football.”

“Another successful season,” said Warriors general manager Robert “Bishop” Butler. “Basketball is the reason, but Jesus is the hook.”

Kings Fall to Green Team in OT, 79-78

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Writer

A last-second free throw boosted the visiting Christian Sports Ministry’s Green Team to a 79-78 fast-paced overtime victory over the San Quentin Kings in the season finale.

“It was a good game, but the turnovers at the wrong time killed us,” said Charles Sylvester.

In the fourth quarter, the Kings were up 68-65. Green Team power forward Bobby Williams in bounded the ball to shooting guard Ross Pusey. He ran to the corner three-point line and shot over a King defender, knocking down the

three, tying the score with three seconds left in regulation.

The Kings’ attempt to make a play in the remaining seconds was stopped when Green Team center Tyree McCary swatted down the inbound pass. Williams picked up the loose ball and fired off a half-court shot that bounced off the rim, nearly going in.

“This is unlike any pick-up game anywhere. This atmosphere is great,” said Green Team guard Mike Picone.

In overtime, the Green Team controlled the opening tip, until Kings’ guard Tare “Cancun” Beltranchuc stole the ball from Pusey, ran down court and hit

a pull-up jumper, starting a 6-1 Kings run.

Beltranchuc’s basket was followed by Sylvester stealing the ball from Picone as he crossed half-court, setting off a fast break. Sylvester found Thad Fleeton on his wing and dished him the ball. Fleeton hit a turn-around short-range jumper over Williams.

Williams was fouled on the next play and hit one of two free throws. With the ball back in his hands, Beltranchuc found Demond Lewis wide open. Lewis nailed the shot, making the score 75-69.

With their backs against the wall, the Green Team came out of a timeout and made a run.

Pusey made a sweet pass in traffic to Williams, who scored the layup between two defenders, making it 75-73 Kings.

The Kings’ Fleeton responded with an and-one layup, completing the three-point play with a free throw, giving the Kings a commanding 78-73 lead.

The Green Team was not deterred. With a minute left, Pusey received the inbound pass from guard Picone and went coast-to-coast, weaving between Kings defenders for the layup off the backboard and closing the deficit to 78-75.

With 45 seconds left, the Kings tried to run the clock out, which forced the Green Team to foul King guard Brian Asey to stop the clock. Asey missed both critical free throws and rebounded his own miss, but lost the ball out of bounds.

Pusey quickly dribble-drove the ball down court toward the basket, which drew in the Kings defenders. He then passed the rock to wide open McCary, who swished the three-pointer, tying the score 78-78.

The Kings rushed the inbound pass. It bounced off Fatten Jackson’s hands. Williams picked the ball from the ground and headed for the basket, but was fouled. He made one of the two free throws, giving the Green Team a 79-78 point lead with five seconds left in overtime.

Time expired with the Kings down one after having led by six, leaving them in shock in the season finale.

“This is the best thing to do on a Saturday; the competition is good. I appreciate my situation much more,” Williams said.

Leading scorers for the Kings were J. “Mailman” Ratchford with 18, Fleeton 15, P. “Strange” Walker 11 and Sylvester 9.

Pusey led the Green Team with 27 points. Williams had 24, McCary 10 and Picone 6.

The Kings finished the season with an 11-10 record, but were 1-8 against the Green Team, whose only loss came when McCary wasn’t available.

“I came in here and never lost and next year will be the same,” said McCary.

Third Straight Win for ‘Running Man’

By **Harun Taylor**
Sports Writer

With a slight breeze blowing and the sun shining, 60-year-old Lorenzo “The Running Man” Hopson out-paced the other 1,000 Mile Club members in a Nov. 14 marathon run and once again triumphed.

He completed the 26.2 miles in 3:31:47, just missing the San Quentin record of 3:26:00, which he set earlier, by 5 minutes and 47 seconds.

“The yard going down, that messes up your rhythm,” Hopson said after the race. “I’ve been No. 1 three times in row, but this one is the second fastest time.”

Darren Settlemeyer, who ran 20 miles, said, “It was a fantastic run. Having Diane, Frank, Kevin, RJ and Jim come in to help and contribute is awesome.”

After 16 miles Louis Hunter stepped off the track. “I got too many injuries this trip and I’m trying to work through it. I took three weeks off attempting to rest up, but I might’ve taken too much time,” said Hunter, who started an hour and 20 minutes after all the other runners.

Edward “Wakil” Scott only

ran four miles. “I had intentions to run more, but Alllah gave me what I put in. I didn’t put in any work, so I didn’t get any more than I put in,” said Scott.

Eric “Abdu’l Wahid” Moody completed 13.1 miles, a personal best, in 2 hours and 21 minutes. “I thought I had at least 75 percent of it in me, but my calves started burning and I got tired. I’m not ready for the full 26.2 yet, but I’ll get there,” said Moody.

Eddie DeWeaver ran 13.1 miles. “I’m really tired. I went to Ad Seg last night; my whole schedule is thrown off -- eating, sleeping, everything. But, I still came out to support the program,” he said.

Bernard “Abdur RaHiym” Ballard, completed 13.1 miles in 2:10:18 for the first time. “I’m exhausted. I’m going to use this as a stepping stone for the next season,” he said.

During their run the runners took salt pills and plenty of water. After the run they received granola bars.

“This is the half training, half marathon run today,” said Chris Schumacher, laughing. He completed 13.1 miles in 1:52:08.

The 1,000 Mile Club is a group of San Quentin athletes who have committed themselves to running as a way to aid in their personal rehabilitation.

Sponsor Kevin Runyon said, “Running and sports within the prison setting in general are goal orientated: physical fitness, meditation and even prayer for some. We know what it is, however, whether the powers that be see it that way is another story.”

Larry Ford finished the run 3:55:26 and was reflective. “It was tough. At 58 – I’ll be 59 in December – it was tough, but if I’m running, I’m vertical. If I’m vertical, I’m running,” said Ford.

Other 26.2 miles Finishers:

Glen Mason	
Age: 53 Time: 03:46:44	
Sergio Carrillo	
41 03:52:48	
Larry Ford	
58 03:55:26	
Miguel Quezada	
32 04:09:38	
Carlos Ramirez	
32 04:10:38	
Michael Keeeyes	
67 04:29:00	
Clifton Williams	
52 04:58:10	



Charles Sylvester facing Ross Pusey



Photo by P. Jo

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <small>Martin L. King Jr. Day</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <small>President's Day</small>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 <small>Cesar Chavez Day</small>				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 ³¹	25 <small>Memorial Day</small>	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ³⁰	24 ³¹	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <small>Labor Day</small>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <small>Veteran's Day</small>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <small>Thanksgiving Holiday</small>	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26
27	28	29	30	31		